

28 May 2019

English only

Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

Twenty-eighth session

Vienna, 20–24 May 2019

Agenda item 1

Election of officers

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1. Pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 2003/31 and rule 15 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Council, the Commission, at the end of its reconvened twenty-seventh session, on 7 December 2018, opened its twenty-eighth session for the purpose of electing its Bureau for that session. In view of the rotation of offices based on regional distribution, the officers elected for the twenty-eighth session of the Commission and their respective regional groups are listed below.

2. On 31 October 2018, the Eastern European Group nominated Ambassador Alena Kupchyna of Belarus for the office of the Chair. On 27 November 2018, the Group of Asia and Pacific States nominated Kazem Gharib Abadi of the Islamic Republic of Iran for the office of the Third Vice-Chair. On 7 December 2018, the Group of Western European and other States nominated Ambassador Gabriela Sellner of Austria for the office of the Second Vice-Chair. On 7 December 2018, the Commission elected the Chair as well as the Second and Third Vice-Chairs. At the opening of the 28th session on 20 May, the first Vice-Chair, Ambassador Jose Antonio Marcondes de Carvalho of Brazil and the rapporteur, Mr. Ahmed Maaty of Egypt, were elected to the Bureau.

3. The officers of the Commission at its twenty-eighth session were as follows:

<i>Chair</i>	Eastern European States	Alena Kupchyna (Belarus)
<i>First Vice-Chair</i>	Latin American and Caribbean States	Jose Antonio Marcondes de Carvalho (Brazil)
<i>Second Vice-Chair</i>	Western European and other States	Gabriela Sellner (Austria)
<i>Third Vice-Chair</i>	Asia-Pacific States	Kazem Gharib Abadi (Islamic Republic of Iran)
<i>Rapporteur</i>	African States	Ahmed Maaty (Egypt)

4. A group composed of the Chairs of the five regional groups, the Chair of the Group of 77 and China, as well as the Presidency of the European Union was

* This document has not been edited.



established to assist the Chair of the Commission in dealing with organizational matters. That group, together with the elected officers, constitutes the extended Bureau foreseen in Economic and Social Council resolution 2003/31.

5. Prior to the election of the other officers, the representative of Brazil (on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States) congratulated the Ambassador of Belarus upon her election as the Chair of the 28th session of the Commission. She confirmed that her Group was aware of the importance of the task of serving as the First Vice-Chair of the Commission and was currently undertaking consultations in order to inform as soon as possible of its decision.

6. The observer for Nigeria (on behalf of the Group of African States) congratulated the Ambassador of Belarus for her election as the Chair of the Commission and assured her of the Group's support throughout her work. He formally observed that the African Group was aware of the position it was to assume and that the Group was still consulting and would inform the Secretariat as soon as possible of its nomination.

7. The representative of the United States of America stated that the pending election of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the position of Third Vice-Chair of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Bureau compelled her delegation to take the unusual step of commenting on the nominations by a regional group for a leadership position. She stated that the Islamic Republic of Iran had been designated as a State Sponsor of Terrorism since 1984, and that for decades, the Islamic Republic of Iran's State-sponsored involvement in fomenting and supporting terrorist activity around the world had been well-known and documented. She further stated that the regime provided over a hundred million dollars each year to terrorist groups like Hamas and the Palestinian Islamic Jihad, that the Islamic Republic of Iran recruited impoverished youth in places like Afghanistan, Iraq, and Pakistan to fight in the Syrian Arab Republic, and that Iranian vessels harassed ships in international waterways. She further stated that this past summer, Iranian-supported militias in Iraq had launched life-threatening rocket attacks against the United States embassy compound in Baghdad and the United States consulate in Basra. The representative of the United States further stated that the Islamic Republic of Iran's malign activity had extended to the proliferation realm, with its record of denial, dissembling, and obfuscation about its nuclear activities, as well as efforts to develop means of delivery of weapons of mass destruction, and its outright violations of a long litany of United Nations Security Council resolutions and other international obligations. With regard to the CCPCJ, the speaker considered that the Islamic Republic of Iran's record of official corruption, oppression of its people, arbitrary detention, and disregard for human rights and religious freedom within its own borders, in addition to its support for terrorism abroad and flouting of United Nations Security Council and other international obligations, made its presence on the leadership bureau of the Crime Commission particularly ludicrous and, indeed, risked detracting from the credibility of the forum. The speaker stated that the United States had consistently joined in the collective tradition and practice of the CCPCJ to conduct its business by consensus whenever possible, and that, given the important work of the Commission, the consensus-based work should continue. She informed that the United States would not participate, however, other than at a technical level, in any meetings chaired by the Islamic Republic of Iran.

8. The representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran thanked the Asia-Pacific Group for nominating a representative of his country for the position of the third Vice-Chair of the 28th session of the CCPCJ and thanked all Members of the Commission for placing trust and confidence in his delegation to assume this position, assuring that his delegation would do its utmost to justify this trust. The speaker expressed his regret that, in his view, the delegation of the United States once again embarked on a failed action to misuse the agenda items of an international organization to put forward totally baseless, unsubstantiated and irrelevant allegations against his country. To remind the delegation of the United States of its blacklist of international crimes committed, he recalled the following instances. According to the view of his

delegation, the United States (1) created and supported the radicals and terrorists in the Middle East; (2) imposed utmost unilateral sanctions against others as a means of political extortions; (3) invaded a number of countries in all corners of the world simply for political purposes; (4) overthrew a number of democratically elected political systems, including in the Islamic Republic of Iran, and throughout the world through direct or indirect interventions; (5) was by far the highest arms supplier to different volatile regions, especially with dictators, at the expense of sacrificing its so-called values; (6) had hundreds of military bases throughout the world and was deploying tactical nuclear weapons; (7) had military presence in the Persian Gulf region, thousands of miles away from its mainland, provoking tensions and causing instability. The speaker stated that these were all a slight glimpse of real life, while on the other side of the story, the Islamic Republic of Iran had never attacked a country in the whole lifetime of the United States' existence; was a main driver of stabilization in the region; had been the victim of State and non-State terrorism sponsored by the United States, and was at the forefront of combating terrorism, just to name a few. The speaker stated that the United States delegation, like on previous occasions and in its past behaviour, showed total disrespect to multilateralist principles and agreed and well-established rules and working methods of international organizations including through disrespecting consensual decisions of regional groups, based on an ill-intended and politically motivated intention to destroy the valuable heritage of multilateralism. He further stated that most regrettably the current United States administration misused all avenues in its hands to prove its hostility towards internationally agreed norms and standards. He further assured that, despite this bitter fact, the Islamic Republic of Iran as an active and responsible member of the international community, continued its constructive and active role in all international forums, including as a Vice-Chair of the next CCPCJ session. The speaker stated his delegation's firm belief that the United Nations' specialized agencies, organs and programmes should continue their professional and objective methods of work and should not allow others to politicize their mandate and create dangerous precedents which put in danger the credibility and liability of the United Nations system. Finally, he announced that, as a reciprocal treatment, the Iranian delegation would not participate in any session that would be led by the United States in future.

9. The representative of Austria congratulated the Ambassador of Belarus on her election as the Chair of the 28th session and stated, on behalf of the Ambassador of Austria, that she was looking forward to cooperating with the Chair in the role of Second Vice-Chair. He stated that his delegation was looking forward to working with the other members of the Bureau and with all Member States. He further stated that his delegation was looking forward to the preparations of the Crime Congress and thanked the Japanese delegation for the very interesting presentation.

10. The representative of China (on behalf of the Asia and Pacific Group) congratulated the Ambassador of Belarus for her election as the Chair of the 28th session and stated that under her able leadership the 28th session of the Commission would be able to achieve an even greater outcome. He also expressed his satisfaction upon the nomination of the Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran as the Third Vice-Chair of the Commission and assured him of the Group's full trust in the fact that he would fulfil this function in an outstanding and professional manner. He stated that against the current backdrop of international affairs, the CCPCJ was facing many difficulties and expressed the hope that under the leadership of the Chair, the Commission would reinvigorate multilateralism. He further stated that multilateralism meant that countries big or small, whatever political positions they held, or what kind of divergence they had, could all sit together under the auspices of the United Nations and solve problems through equal consultations and achieve their common interests. He expressed the wish of the countries of the Group of Asia and Pacific States that all countries should take part in the work of the CCPCJ in a spirit of multilateralism to create more consensus instead of confrontation or divergence.

11. The observer for the Syrian Arab Republic congratulated the Ambassador of Belarus for her election to her post and assured her of her delegation's full support

throughout her Chairmanship. She also congratulated the members of the Bureau who had been elected by their regional groups. She expressed regret in noting that the CCPCJ had, in her view, been politicized by one single delegation, and that the CCPCJ as other forums had been exploited in order to artificially insert her country's name as part of the imperialist policy prevailing in the region. She stated that the Islamic Republic of Iran's presence on Syrian territory was at the request of the Syrian authorities, whereas the presence of the United States was illegitimate and was considered as an occupation of Syrian territory. She stated that the United States was responsible for the spread of terrorism in the Syrian Arab Republic and the region. She further stated that it was the United States that created Daesh, the Islamic State, al-Nusra as well as other Islamic terrorist groups and that the United States provided them with financial support as well as with weaponry. Furthermore, she stated that the United States forces bombed on a daily basis Syrian citizens, using all types of weapons, even those that were internationally prohibited, under the aegis of an international alliance.

12. The representative of Pakistan expressed that his delegation looked forward to working closely with the Chair, with other members of the Bureau and with all Member States. He stated that throughout the new Chairmanship his delegation would continue to work in the spirit of consensus that it had upheld in the past.

13. The representative of the Russian Federation congratulated the Ambassador of Belarus for her election as the Chair of the Commission. He stated that his delegation highly valued her diplomatic professionalism and expressed the certainty that under her leadership the next session would be successful. He also welcomed the election of the other Vice-Chairs to the Bureau and wished them every success, and expressed to all members of the Bureau, particularly to the Islamic Republic of Iran, his delegation's full support. He expressed his delegation's hope that the Commission returned to the constructive and depoliticized atmosphere which usually prevailed in Vienna, particularly in the CCPCJ, and thanks to which the Commission should not forget that its enemy was crime.

14. The representative of Morocco congratulated the Ambassador of Belarus for her election as the Chair of the Commission and wished her, the members of the Bureau and the members of the Commission the best of success.

15. The observer for Iraq congratulated the Ambassador of Belarus for her election as the Chair of the Commission and expressed his delegation's support for her Chairmanship. The speaker aligned himself with the statements delivered by China and the Syrian Arab Republic and highlighted that it must be ensured that the United Nations remained a forum for all Member States to avoid politicization of positions. He also highlighted that the United Nations brought together all States regardless of their positions and expressed the view that the name of Iraq must not be used in such a debate or in these positions.

16. The representative of Cuba congratulated the Ambassador of Belarus and the members of the Bureau for their election. He rejected any decision that might in any way target a regional group or stand in the way of a candidature submitted by a regional group. He stated that this candidature reflected the consensus achieved within the regional group and the members of this regional group. He expressed the view that the Islamic Republic of Iran's candidature as submitted by the Asia Pacific Group was a legitimate candidature which enjoyed the Group's support and backing as well as the necessary consensus. He further stated that it had been submitted in accordance with the established Rules of Procedure for the election of Bureau members of the Commission.