



**121st ASSEMBLY OF THE INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION
AND RELATED MEETINGS**

Geneva, 19-21.10.2009

SUMMARY RECORDS

**OF THE PANEL DISCUSSION HELD DURING THE 121st ASSEMBLY IN GENEVA
(OCTOBER 2009)**

on the subject item

"Cooperation and shared responsibility in the global fight against organized crime, in particular drug trafficking, illegal arms sales, human trafficking and cross-border terrorism"

chosen for debate by the First Standing Committee
(Peace and International Security)

during the 122nd Assembly in March-April 2010 in Bangkok (Thailand).

**Cooperation and shared responsibility in the global fight
against organized crime, in particular drug trafficking,
illegal arms sales, human trafficking and cross-border terrorism**

Item 3(a) of the agenda

Panel discussion on the subject chosen for debate by the First Standing Committee on Peace and International Security during the 122nd Assembly in March-April 2010

Sitting of Tuesday, 20 October

(Morning)

The meeting was called to order at 9.10 a.m. with the President of the First Standing Committee, Mr. T. Boa (Côte d'Ivoire), in the Chair.

The MODERATOR explained that the purpose of the informal discussion was to facilitate an exchange of views that could assist the co-Rapporteurs in finalizing their report and drafting a resolution that would be discussed by the First Standing Committee during the 122nd IPU Assembly in Bangkok, (Thailand) in March-April 2010.

Mr. P. LAPAQUE, *Chief, Law Enforcement, Organized Crime and Money-Laundering Unit, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), Panellist*, began by showing a video illustrating the tragedy of human trafficking, and some of the action being taken by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to provide a global response.

Organized crime was a clear and present danger, and constituted a threat to security both nationally and internationally. Turnover from such criminal activities was in the order of US\$ 30 billion a year. Criminal groups were ruthless multinationals exploiting cheap labour in developing countries; they were well equipped, and quick to adapt and relocate their operations to avoid detection. They preyed on entire regions and on countries where governments were weak, and took advantage of vulnerable people such as those who had been trafficked, migrants and child soldiers. The United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (Palermo Convention) had been adopted in 2000, and its Palermo protocols concerning the smuggling of migrants, trafficking in persons and the illicit manufacturing and trafficking of firearms had been subsequently drawn up. However, over time, the fight against organized crime had slipped down the global agenda, and the threat from organized crime was greater now than it had been when the Palermo Convention had entered into force in 2003.

Parliamentarians had to ensure that the public did not lose faith in the legitimacy of their public institutions, and that the rule of law was strong enough to prevent criminal groups from gaining strength. The links between drugs, crime and terrorism had created networks with a global reach. Countries had to fight back together. To that end, efforts should be made to press for the universal ratification of the Palermo Convention and the three protocols; build capacity and improve criminal justice and law enforcement to ensure that national teams had the necessary equipment and expertise to keep up with evolving crime trends. Integrity and regional cooperation had to be strengthened, in particular through the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC), and proper legislation regarding money laundering.

Mrs. M.T. ORTUÑO (Mexico), *co-Rapporteur*, pointed out that after the end of the Cold War, new threats to international peace and security had emerged, namely drug trafficking, illegal arms sales, the trafficking of persons and cross-border terrorism. Globalization had generated a series of changes worldwide. The world was no longer bipolar; conflicts had broken out in various regions, and there had been major breakthroughs in communication and information technologies. Globalization also made threats transnational, and heightened world population insecurity. Current global trends, such as the growing interdependence between States and the opening of borders, together with cultural, legal and political inequalities and the existence of conflicts in countries, facilitated the activities of transnational organized crime groups. As a consequence of the international economic crisis, more people were working in the informal sector, while others had joined organized crime networks. Criminals were now freer to move, making it easier for them to broaden the range and scope of their operations. In recent

years, most countries had suffered a surge in criminal activities that posed a serious threat to political and economic stability. Organized crime had diversified and extended beyond borders, undermining the credibility and effectiveness of institutions, violating human rights and corrupting political leaders. Criminal groups carried out their illicit activities using major technological tools, such as information networks, the financial system and more sophisticated weapons. They also took advantage of differences in legislation, legal systems and traditions, which often seriously hampered State efforts to respond adequately to the threat of organized crime. Over recent years, there had been a significant increase in global criminal activities such as money laundering, trafficking in nuclear technology and material, trade in human organs, and migrant smuggling. At the same time, emerging crimes, such as modern piracy, trafficking in toxic waste, precious metals and natural resources, as well as the production of counterfeit medicines, had been added to the list of traditional illegal activities.

Drug trafficking was one of the principal illicit activities worldwide, and considered by governments, international bodies and non-governmental organizations to be a national and international security problem. An operative structure had been established guaranteeing that the trade in illegal drugs, and their consumption, would continue. The illicit manufacturing, transfer and traffic of arms affected peace, stability and sustainable development at all levels. The illicit sale of arms was closely related to other organized crime activities, such as drug trafficking and terrorism; criminal groups exchanged arms for drugs, and terrorist organizations obtained arms and explosives from arms traffickers. Human trafficking was comparable to drug and arms trafficking in terms of the profit it generated, and was considered a human rights violation by the International Organization for Migration (IOM). The victims were mostly from poor families, and had limited access to education, health services and economic opportunities. Lastly, having highlighted the severe threat to international peace, security and stability posed by cross-border terrorism, she drew attention to the relevance of the Palermo Convention, which was the only legally binding international instrument offering States the opportunity to harmonize laws and procedures across borders and between regions, and thus prevent and combat all serious manifestations of transnational organized crime. Parliaments in all countries in the world had to develop similar legal frameworks to prevent some countries becoming a haven for organized criminal activities.

Mr. A. WIRIYACHAI (Thailand), *co-Rapporteur*, said that the draft report focused on a number of aspects of organized crime, and also contained recommendations for IPU action. Turning to drug trafficking, he said that strong cooperation and coordination, committed action, effective control, and a substantial reduction in illicit cultivation were essential for a drug-free society. He also drew attention to the importance of prevention, treatment and after-care services in that regard. Members of the IPU should take steps to strengthen and harmonize national legislation, and to promote strong regional cooperation in the prevention of drug trafficking. The role of women and the family in reducing drug intake and organized crime should also be acknowledged.

The illegal sale of arms, particularly small arms and light weapons, constituted a risk to international peace, stability and security. A concerted and comprehensive effort was required by governments and other stakeholders at the international, regional and national level to ensure appropriate control of armaments, munitions and military equipment. IPU members were encouraged to call for an evaluation of their countries' stockpiles of arms, as well as of their existing capacity and readiness for action to combat illegal arms sales.

International cooperation was essential if a solution to the problem of human trafficking was to be found. Efforts should be made to promote the universal ratification of relevant international instruments, and the harmonization of legislation on trafficking in persons.

With regard to cross-border terrorism, he emphasized the importance of the ratification of relevant international legislation, and of ensuring that measures to combat international terrorism were consistent with international law. Terrorism should not be associated with any region, nationality, civilization, or ethnic group. He also drew attention to the importance of public involvement in the prevention of terrorism.

In the area of money laundering, IPU members were encouraged to support international cooperation to fight against corruption, and to promote national democratic reform and good governance. Lastly, he highlighted the importance of the harmonization of legislation across all members of the IPU for the prevention of organized crime.

Mr. A. STEEN, *Chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Trafficking of Women and Children, UK Parliament, Panellist*, observed that parliamentarians were hardly ever invited to the increasing

number of conferences on human trafficking, and noted that only one of the parliamentarians present reported, when asked, that they had ever met a trafficked individual. However, human trafficking was the second most profitable criminal activity after drug trafficking, and 99 per cent of trafficked individuals were never identified. More than twice as many people were in bondage today than had been taken in chains during the 350 years of the African slave trade. The incidents reported in the press were only the tip of the iceberg, and child trafficking was a growing problem. A very experienced child could earn in the region of GBP 75000 per year for his or her traffickers, and those under ten years of age could not be prosecuted. The British police had recently identified 1012 Roma children on the streets of London alone.

He had established the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Trafficking of Women and Children three years previously with the aim of raising the profile of human trafficking in the United Kingdom Parliament and pressurizing the government into taking practical action on the matter. The Group asked questions of leading agencies, held quarterly meetings to review progress with respect to human trafficking, and campaigned for its increased public awareness and greater help for non-governmental agencies (NGO's) that assisted victims. It also campaigned for better policing and for nationwide police operations. The second such nationwide operation had concluded in 2008, with 167 victims of human trafficking identified, 528 people arrested and over £ 500,000 seized. Traffickers were highly mobile, and the All-Party Group had launched an initiative to establish a network of parliamentary groups committed to tackling human trafficking in all national parliaments in the European Union. Those groups had already been established in Germany, Lithuania, Poland, Romania and Spain. He would be pleased to provide additional information about that initiative to other interested parliamentarians.

Debate

Ms. M. KUMAR (India) said that organized crime was a major threat to human security. A number of legislative and administrative measures had been taken in India to counter the threat of illicit activities such as drug trafficking, the illegal sale of arms, human trafficking and cross-border terrorism. Her country was a signatory to the relevant United Nations conventions and associated protocols and had been actively involved in exchanges of information and best practices in bilateral, multilateral and regional bodies. Cross-border terrorism posed serious global security challenges, and her country was one of those to have been confronted with externally sponsored terrorism. India was developing a comprehensive action plan to confront terrorism, which included the enhanced sharing of intelligence, the strengthening of border management, and an increased number of extradition treaties signed. It had also set up joint working groups on counter terrorism with 27 countries, and had signed agreements on mutual legal assistance in criminal matters with 26 countries. She hoped that the draft convention on the suppression of terrorism that sought to provide a comprehensive legal framework to deal effectively with the entire range of terrorist activities would receive strong parliamentary support.

The most unfortunate aspect of organized crime was the fact that some irresponsible States were covertly assisting the perpetrators for their own ulterior motives. In order to counter all forms of organized crime, States across the globe must develop an internationally acceptable mechanism involving law enforcement cooperation, mutual legal assistance and extradition.

Mr. S.C. NEMBANG (Nepal) said that organized crime, environmental degradation, health pandemics, poverty and inequality had emerged as transnational challenges in the increasingly interconnected, interdependent world. Transnational organized crime was the most serious threat to international peace, security and development, and it fostered international terrorism. Concerted cooperation at all levels was required to confront current challenges. Nepal called for the universal application of the United Nations Palermo Convention and its associated protocols, and called for the capacity of the UNODC to be strengthened. Campaigns had been undertaken in Nepal with a view to raising awareness of human trafficking and harmonizing legislation. His country had strengthened its legal institutions, reformed its legal and criminal investigation procedures, and enhanced the capacity of its law enforcement authorities. Noting that national laws had been harmonized with the provisions of regional and international instruments, he said that Nepal was a party to a number of relevant regional conventions, including the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Regional Convention on the Suppression of Terrorism, and the Convention on Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Women and Children for Prostitution. It had also ratified international instruments including the optional protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and the United Nations Convention on Psychotropic Substances. His country was undergoing an historical political

transformation after ten years of conflict within the democratic framework. Its priority was to bring the peace process to a positive conclusion and expedite socio-economic transformation.

Mr. A.F. SOROUR (Egypt) said that, while there were many advantages to globalization, organized crime was one of the disadvantages. It threatened national and international security, and served as a source of funding for terrorism. The current financial crisis was also exacerbating the situation; the lack of liquidity was providing opportunities for those profiting from the proceeds of organized crime to infiltrate financial institutions. Piracy was another form of terrorism that the international community had so far failed to tackle, and one that the draft report had not addressed in any detail.

Traditional means had so far proven ineffective in tackling organized crime. International legislative instruments, such as the Convention against Money Laundering, and the Convention for the Suppression of Traffic in Persons to which his country was a party, were useful tools, but not sufficient in themselves. Parliamentarians had a responsibility to monitor the actions of governments, and to develop new mechanisms to tackle organized crime.

Mr. N. ANASTASIADES (Cyprus) said that transnational organized crime was one of the major threats to international security. Although the international community had adopted a series of conventions on relevant issues, there were inherent weaknesses in the international system, and criminals had expanded their activities. There was much to be done to promote international cooperation with a view to enforcing legislation and prosecuting criminals. With regard to human trafficking, he said that the international community must continue its efforts to foster cooperation and coordination among judicial institutions, while providing effective protection and support to the victims. Efforts to combat cross-border terrorism should focus on dismantling the networks that funded terrorist activities, and on the promotion of effective multilateral cooperation. Parliamentarians had a duty not only to adopt relevant legislation, but also to ensure that respect for international law and fundamental human rights prevailed.

Mr. A. LARIJANI (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that terrorism, and particularly State terrorism, was the worst form of organized crime and had increased exponentially in recent decades. Iran considered it to be a new form of modern bullying that disturbed the regional and global security balance, and recalled that it had been a victim of a known terrorist group backed by western superpowers for the previous 30 years. The actions in Afghanistan had turned the fight against terrorism into a hollow slogan. NATO members had occupied Afghanistan on the pretext of finding terrorists, but had actually resorted to holding negotiations with them in order to achieve their goals. In some cases, the hegemonic domination of certain superpowers had caused some peoples to revolt. Over the previous 60 years, the actions of the Occupying Power had led to the displacement of a huge number of Palestinians. While Hezbollah, Hamas and other Palestinian groups were unfairly considered as terrorists in certain fora, their resistance was an honourable and legitimate defence, of which the Islamic world was proud.

Mr. M. KOPEYEV (Kazakhstan) said that legislation in Kazakhstan had been amended to enable the country to fight more effectively against organized crime, including drug trafficking and human trafficking, and stressed the importance of international cooperation. Kazakhstan condemned terrorism in all its forms and would welcome the signature of an international convention to combat terrorism. It had incorporated anti-money laundering provisions into national law, and would continue to bring its legislation into line with the provisions of relevant international instruments with a view to combating all forms of organized crime.

Mr. G. FEJIC (International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA)) said that the Institute was a global intergovernmental organization with 25 Member States, and had a mandate to support democracy through its work in areas which included electoral processes and political representation. The need to take into account the impact of organized crime, in particular illicit financing, on different democratic institutions and processes was becoming increasingly evident. Different means were used to control the political decision making process to suit the interests of certain individuals. In some cases, entire parallel State structures were created. In order to encourage debate and international cooperation on the issue, he said that the Institute would be convening an international roundtable on "democracy at a crossroads" and "the challenge of illicit finance in politics in Mexico" in December. He congratulated the IPU for having selected the subject for discussion, and highlighted the important role of parliamentarians in safeguarding democracy.

Ms. Y. REGUEIFEROS (Cuba) said that urgent international cooperation was required to deal with transnational organized crime. Human trafficking was a growing problem, reducing many women and children to domestic servitude and prostitution. For more than half a century, Cuba had been the victim of many acts of terrorism, a number of which had been organized and financed from the territory of the United States. In conclusion, she urged parliamentarians to join the growing international movement calling for the liberation of the 'Cuban Five'.

Mr. DAI YUZHONG (China) said that as globalization increased, so did interdependence between States. Organized crime had become a global problem that threatened international peace and security. Parliaments must play their role in developing a comprehensive legislative framework, to ensure that governments met their legal commitments, and promoted mutually beneficial cooperation between States. Developed countries should provide more assistance to developing countries in the fight against organized crime, to which his country was committed.

Mr. S.S. AL SUWAIDI (United Arab Emirates) called for the implementation of all relevant international instruments and the establishment of regional databases to assist in fighting terrorism and drug trafficking. Agreements facilitating exchanges of experience with NGO's would be useful, as would the establishment of national commissions to fight against human trafficking and the provision of support to victims. A regional centre should be set up to promote an exchange of information, in particular with regard to drug trafficking, and the establishment of an independent body to oversee the action to fight organized crime would be beneficial.

Ms. S. AL-JASSAR (Kuwait), welcoming discussion of the subject, emphasized the importance of strengthened international cooperation in all areas to combat organized crime. Parliamentarians had a role to play in ensuring that every appropriate national, regional and international measure was taken to fight against it. The increasing incidence of terrorism in all its forms was a threat to stability and peace. Her country was particularly concerned at the attempts to link terrorism to a particular religion or culture, and noted that insufficient attention was being paid to the State terrorism perpetrated against the Palestinian people by Israel over the previous 60 years.

Mr. P. MUÑOZ LEDO (Mexico) said that in the era of globalization, increasing inequalities were a catalyst for illegal activities. The opening of borders had exacerbated the situation, as had the fact that some States had been hijacked by systems allowing illegal activities. Parliaments should set up anti-mafia committees and take action to promote security, economic reform and the protection of human rights. Noting that limited success had been made with respect to drug trafficking since the Palermo Convention, he said that consideration should be given to the establishment of international bodies to address the issue, and to the creation of a new institutional architecture.

Mr. M.S. SONG (Republic of Korea), welcoming the draft report, said that parliamentarians should help their administrations to take effective action to fight successfully against organized crime. He advocated a two-fold approach, namely steps to address the root causes of transnational organized crime, such as poverty and unemployment, and efforts to strengthen the legal systems of central and local governments. He highlighted the importance in that regard of international cooperation, and the exchange of experience, as well as of appropriate legislative measures and budgetary allocations.

Mr. S. FADEL (Saudi Arabia) said that it was regrettable that terrorism, which was a political phenomenon, had been linked to a particular religion. Saudi Arabia, which some considered to be the source of the current terrorist phenomenon, had suffered greatly from terrorism, and had become one of the most successful countries in dealing with the problem using all possible means at its disposal. Referring to the plight of the Palestinian people, who had suffered for 60 years as a result of the Israeli occupation and terrorist activities, he called for the elimination of political injustice. IPU should continue to contribute to the fight against terrorism, and he called upon parliamentarians to encourage international cooperation in that regard, including through an exchange of information.

Mrs. L. SLISKA (Russian Federation) said that State of origin and the State of destination bore equal responsibility as far as human trafficking was concerned, and she would welcome the development of a humanitarian approach to protect the rights of the victims. With regard to the illicit

trafficking of weapons, she said that many countries continued to manufacture weapons despite the fact that their licences to do so had expired. The export of arms from those countries to third countries was a huge source of revenue, and should be addressed in the report. Turning to drug trafficking, she said that the report should mention the importance of Afghanistan in the production of heroin. The list of international organizations in paragraph 56 of the draft report should include the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), the Council of Europe, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) countries. Paragraph 61 on the recognition of the fundamental role of parliaments and legislative assemblies in preventing and fighting terrorism should also refer to the Council of Europe's Convention on the Prevention of Terrorism. Lastly, in paragraph 64, the phrase "global front" should be replaced with "coordinated effort".

Mr. R. NARAYANAN (Malaysia) said that organized crime had become more sophisticated in recent years due to more efficient technology and communication systems. Increased cooperation, the exchange of information, capacity building and mutual legal assistance were required if countries were to tackle the problem effectively. The use by international drug syndicates of young single women as drug mules was a matter of concern to Malaysia, and he called for closer collaboration between drug enforcement agencies in the sharing of intelligence. Noting the important role of money laundering in the financing of organized crime, he said that Malaysia had enacted anti-money laundering legislation in 2001. His country was committed to combating human trafficking and to ensuring the highest possible standards of rehabilitation for the victims. It would continue to work closely with the international community to address the issue, and remained committed to all relevant United Nations conventions.

Ms. N. MAZAI (Belarus), welcoming the draft report, said that it was important for all parliamentarians to join efforts to combat organized crime. Belarus had implemented all relevant international conventions, and she was pleased to report that her country's cooperation with the IPU and the United Nations was growing. Following an initiative by the President of Belarus, the General Assembly had approved resolution A/RES/63/194 (2008) on improving the coordination of efforts against trafficking in persons. Belarus looked forward to discussing the global plan of action on preventing trafficking in persons to which the resolution referred at the 122nd Assembly of the IPU. Practical steps taken by Belarus included the establishment of a committee on human trafficking and of a training centre, and the convening of a conference on the trafficking of women and children.

The delegate from SOUTH AFRICA said that his Government had identified the fight against crime and corruption as a priority area of focus during its five-year term of office. South Africa had become an important area in terms of drug trafficking, both for end-users and as a transit hub, and was also experiencing an increase in human trafficking. His country was responding in a variety of ways to those challenges, which were likely to increase with the holding of the FIFA World Cup in 2010. It had ratified and implemented all relevant instruments and protocols and had enhanced its cooperation with regional and national police forces, as well as with INTERPOL. Recent cooperation with the United Kingdom had led to the largest ever seizure of drugs in the country and to the arrest of a number of suspects. Border security would be strengthened and specialized units established. Legislation providing for heavy penalties for money laundering, drug trafficking, possession of illegal firearms and the trafficking of minors, had already been passed, and legislation on external and internal human trafficking was currently being processed.

In order to fight effectively against organized crime, the sharing of best practice models between parliaments in the IPU should be improved. Parliaments should also play a greater role in overseeing the implementation of relevant legislation and policies.

Mrs. M.A. SAA (Chile) said that the fight against organized crime was a huge challenge for the international community. Money laundering was a growing problem affecting the economic stability of the most vulnerable countries. She highlighted the importance of international cooperation, the sharing of best practices and the tightening of the bank transfer system to curb money laundering and ensure that the proceeds of criminal activity such as drug trafficking were not used to fund further crimes.

Mr. B. SOUILAH (Algeria) said that terrorism did not recognize borders, religion or levels of development, and could strike any country at any time. He therefore suggested that paragraph 53 of the draft report should be amended. He also questioned the use of the term 'ideology' in paragraph 55

of the draft report, and suggested the addition of a new paragraph at the end of the draft report referring to victims of the financing of terrorism. Noting that the exchange of information was crucial in the fight against organized crime, he said that criminals and terrorists should not be allowed to enjoy the right to asylum.

Mr. J. FAIROOZ (Bahrain) said that organized crime was a threat to all countries in the world without exception. He stressed the importance of the elimination of all forms of terrorism, including the State terrorism perpetrated by Israel against the Palestinian people. Bahrain had adopted all the existing international conventions to combat organized crime, and had sought to bring its domestic legislation into alignment with international instruments. Human trafficking could not be prevented as long as countries continued to collude with one another, and he called for the establishment of an international commission under the auspices of the United Nations to review government action against organized crime.

Mr. F.H. NAEK (Pakistan) said that organized crime undermined the fabric of society and hampered political processes. A sustainable solution could only be found by dealing with the root causes, which included unemployment, social injustice and economic inequalities. Pakistan, which had lost its leader Benazir Bhutto to an act of terrorism, continued to suffer huge loss of life and destruction of infrastructure at the hands of militants. It was fully committed to the international fight against terrorism, and had amended domestic legislation with a view to eliminating terrorism in all its forms. With regard to trafficking in firearms, he noted that the draft report had failed to mention the United Nations Programme of Action on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons and the recently negotiated International Tracing Instrument (ITI). Demand and supply had to be addressed in order to combat drug trafficking. Noting that regional plans for drug control had been developed under the auspices of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), he said that Pakistan had signed an agreement with India to control the border smuggling of narcotics, and had successfully eliminated poppy cultivation. National, regional and international efforts were essential to combat human trafficking, and intensified cooperation between South Asian countries would facilitate the monitoring of cross-border movements.

Mrs. M. MENSAH-WILLIAMS (Namibia) said that if countries invested more heavily in the development and in the education of their people, citizens would have less reason to engage in criminal activities, such as terrorism. Parliaments could no longer afford to be in denial about the existence of human trafficking, and should promulgate legislation providing for compensation for the victims, who were often women and children. It was time for perceptions to change, and she called for the implementation of gender sensitive legislation to highlight the suffering of women as a result of transnational organized criminal activities.

Ms. M. KIKUTA (Japan) said that human trafficking constituted a violation of human rights and dignity. The sad reality was that children were often the victims of human trafficking, and many trafficked minors became child soldiers. The report should mention the problem of child soldiers, and she called upon all countries to ratify the optional protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child concerning the involvement of children in armed conflict. Through its official development assistance (ODA) programmes, Japan had been supporting peacebuilding as well as disarmament, demobilization and the reintegration of former soldiers, including child soldiers. In July, Japan had ratified the international Convention for the Protection of all Persons from Enforced Disappearance, and called on the authorities of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) to respond in earnest to the acknowledged cases of abduction of Japanese citizens.

Mr. A.N. NUH (Kenya) said that the international community could not afford to wait any longer to act on organized crime. For its part, Kenya had enacted new legislation to fight organized crime, including an anti-money laundering bill, but recognized that legislation alone was not enough. Accordingly, a number of institutional reforms were being implemented in his country to facilitate the enforcement of new legislation. Referring to recent events off the coast of Somalia, he said that piracy was another form of organized crime that could lead to the global disruption of economies, and should be addressed in the report. He called on the international community to provide financial and institutional support to those countries that were overburdened because of unstable neighbours. Lastly,

he urged the manufacturers of weapons to pay more attention to the problems caused by armaments in developing countries.

Mr. D. REYENIEJU (Nigeria) having welcomed the draft report, said that Nigeria had taken a number of steps to fight the trafficking of drugs and humans. He wished to draw the attention of the international community to the issue of illegal bunkering, which had huge consequences for the national economy. Some two months earlier, his Government had taken the bold step of demilitarizing the oil producing region, and the quantity of small arms and light weapons turned in that had been exchanged for illegally procured oil had been quite astonishing.

Ms. M. KUTEIT (Syrian Arab Republic) emphasized the importance of international cooperation, exchange of information and awareness raising in order to fight organized crime. The root causes of organized crime, including hunger, poverty, ignorance and occupation had to be addressed, and the international community should provide financial assistance in that regard. The Israeli occupation was having devastating consequences on the lives of thousands of people, particularly women and children. Resistance was a popular legitimate practice and part of the political action taken by people, and should not be equated with terrorism.

Mr. A. SHAHID (Bangladesh) said that there were a number of threats to domestic and international security, including terrorism, human trafficking, money laundering and corruption. His country supported the initiatives adopted in the framework of the Roma/Lyon Group, the G8 forum for counter terrorism, and the global fight against organized crime, corruption and impunity from justice. It also called for full implementation of General Assembly resolutions A/RES/55/25 (2000) on the peaceful settlement of the question of Palestine, and /RES/55/255 (2000) containing the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms. Noting that all States should take appropriate measures at the national level to fight organized crime, he said that parliamentarians should cooperate with international and regional bodies to debate issues on the security agenda, and address the current status of the implementation of national strategies against organized crime. Efforts should also be made to enhance the oversight capacity of parliaments and raise awareness of the fight against organized crime. He called for enhanced cooperation between parliaments, and adoption of intelligence and law enforcement projects to improve coordination.

Mr. R. SOUSA (Peru) said that the draft report, which he welcomed, had referred to cross-border terrorism as an organized criminal activity. He suggested that the definition of an organizational criminal group given in the Palermo Convention should be broadened to encompass terrorist activities; currently that instrument defined an organized criminal group as a structured group acting in concert with the aim of committing crimes in order to obtain, directly or indirectly, a financial or other material benefit.

Illicit drug trafficking was closely linked to a number of terrorist activities, and there was a pressing need to tackle the new phenomenon of drug trafficking terrorism. The IPU had an important role to play in that regard; a standing committee on organized crime could constitute a focal point for legislative activity.

Ms. F.I. ASHRAFF (Sri Lanka) called on parliamentarians to encourage their governments to sign and ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers.

Mr. J.M. GALAN (Colombia) said that his country had been engaged in a war against drugs for over 30 years. Political structures had been infiltrated by criminal elements. Accordingly, it was vital to strengthen democratic institutions, including the parliament, and Colombia would welcome the support and solidarity of the international community in that endeavour. There had been some 100 years of failed drug prohibition, and efforts must now focus on prevention and the promotion of public health. Colombia would be willing to share its experience with others with a view to combating the scourge of drugs.

Mr. E. BIANCO (Italy) urged those States that had not yet done so to sign and ratify the Palermo Convention as soon as possible. He also called on parliaments to set up a fast track procedure for the implementation of relevant international instruments, and for the strengthening of INTERPOL.

Mr. M. HAMDAN (Jordan), referring to paragraph 22 of the draft report, said that parliaments should enact tougher legislation to prevent corrupt officials remaining in office. The report should also refer to the expected violations of human integrity resulting from current research in some developed countries on the human genome, in particular concerning the cloning of human organs.

Mr. E. ZIALCITA (Philippines) said that transnational organized crime was one of the major threats to human security, impeding the social, economic, political and cultural development of societies worldwide. Having welcomed a wide-ranging debate on approaches to combating organized crime, he said that his country had passed comprehensive legislation on drug trafficking and money laundering. No single solution could solve the problem, however, and he called for mutually reinforcing action at all levels. Parliamentarians had a responsibility to act without delay.

Ms. R. KADAGA (Uganda) said that human trafficking was a very serious problem. Because of high unemployment levels in Uganda, some companies had been licensed to export labour. Regrettably, that practice had been abused, and some licences had now been revoked. To prevent exploitation, she said that where the official export of labour was permitted, mechanisms should be developed to monitor how citizens moving to another country were treated. She also called for the implementation by governments of strong bilateral agreements to promote accountability.

The Delegate from VENEZUELA said that the issue of terrorism had to be tackled with sincerity, and recalled that there was no such thing as a good terrorist. For a number of years, his country had been requesting the extradition of a known terrorist, Luis Posada Carriles, who was under the protection of the United States authorities.

Drugs were linked to many organized criminal activities including arms trafficking, money laundering and corruption. It was essential to attack the known centres of drug production, and to harmonize international legislation in order to combat that scourge.

Mr. F. TINOCO CARMONA (Costa Rica) said that without human development, it would be virtually impossible to combat organized crime, violence and terrorism. He would support the establishment by the IPU of a standing committee concerning organized crime. Developing countries did not want the developed world to solve their problems for them, but considered that the developed countries should bear some responsibility for the trafficking of small arms and light weapons. Countries, such as his own, which invested in development, and based their security on international treaties, should not receive discriminatory treatment.

Mr. J.J. MWIIMBU (Zambia) said that parliaments had an important role to play in ensuring the ratification of relevant international instruments, and in strengthening legislation promoting democracy and good governance. In the pre-independence era, Zambia had suffered several terrorist attacks and huge losses in human life and material and financial resources. In 2007, an anti-terror act had been passed, which provided for measures concerning the detection and prevention of terrorist activities. Legislation on money laundering had also been passed. Noting the effects of organized crime on women, he said that Zambia had incorporated some of the provisions of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women into its domestic legislation. The Penal Code also sought to protect women and children from indecent assault, sexual harassment, exploitation and trafficking. In conclusion, he called on parliaments to adopt relevant counter-terrorism instruments, and to establish national and international frameworks to fight terrorism.

Mr. A. ABDULLAH (Palestine) stressed that practical mechanisms were needed to ensure the full implementation of, and compliance with, relevant international instruments concerning organized crime. With regard to State terrorism, he said that Israel continued to commit crimes against humanity despite international condemnation of its actions. He hoped that parliamentarians would strive to promote the implementation of the resolutions and recommendations of the United Nations Human Rights Council. He also drew attention to the fact that Israel was attempting to destroy symbols of Palestinian and Arab culture in the Occupied Territories.

Mrs. M.T. ORTUÑO (Mexico), *co-Rapporteur*, thanked representatives for their comments. She hoped parliamentarians would be inspired by the discussion and return to their capitals with renewed enthusiasm to legislate on issues pertaining to organized crime.

Mr. P. LAPAQUE, *Chief, Law Enforcement, Organized Crime and Money-Laundering Unit, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), Panellist*, thanked parliamentarians for their comments, and for their commitment to fighting organized crime, corruption and terrorism. He highlighted the importance of the ratification and implementation of relevant international instruments, and drew attention to the need to develop a vision and strategic approach to combat organized crime at the regional, national and international levels.

Mr. A. STEEN, *Chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Trafficking of Women and Children, UK Parliament, Panellist*, pointed out that a major obstacle in the fight against organized crime was the failure to implement legislation that had been passed. He agreed that the issue of domestic slavery should not be underestimated; some 18,200 visas were granted every year in the United Kingdom for domestic workers, a large proportion of whom had been trafficked.

The MODERATOR emphasized the importance of raising awareness among parliamentarians, governments and the population in order to combat indifference. Parliamentarians should promote the development of national legislation, the ratification of all relevant international conventions, and the establishment of cross-party networks in order to fight organized crime more effectively. Cyber crime and maritime piracy were forms of organized crime that should also be taken into account.

The meeting rose at 1.p.m.