

ECOSOC Management Segment, 21 July 2020

DRAFT SPEAKING NOTES FOR H.E. Mr. J. Antonio Marcondes, Chair of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its 29th session

Introduction

Mr President, Distinguished representatives, Ladies and Gentlemen,

As Chair of the 29th session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, it is my great pleasure to brief you today on the work of the Commission at its 29th session.

Reconvened 28th session

Let me first briefly introduce the report of the Commission on its reconvened 28th session, which took place on 12 and 13 December 2019. The report is contained in document **E/2019/30/Add.1**.

The reconvened 28th session was attended by over 380 participants representing 90 Member States and a number of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations as well as UN agencies and affiliates.

In line with past practice and in accordance with the decision of the Economic and Social Council 2011/259, the Commission held, on 12 December, a joint meeting together with the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, to consider the agenda item on the strategic management, budgetary and administrative questions. During that meeting the Commission adopted resolution 28/4 entitled “*Budget for*

the biennium 2020-2021 for the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Fund”.

On 13 December, the CCPCJ held a separate meeting, to discuss a number of substantive agenda items, in particular on the follow-up to the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and preparations for the Fourteenth Crime Congress, which was scheduled to take place in Kyoto/Japan from 20 to 27 April 2020.

Regular 29th session

Now let me share an update on the status of the 29th session of the Commission.

The 29th session was originally scheduled to take place from 18 to 24 May 2020, in Vienna, with the overall theme on *"Effective measures to prevent and counter the smuggling of migrants, while protecting the rights of smuggled migrants, particularly women and children, and those of unaccompanied migrant children"*.

Already in March 2020, we were quite advanced with the preparations for the 29th session, but, as was the case with many other meetings, the regular session had to be postponed to an undetermined date, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The 29th session would have dealt with the follow-up to the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, which had – as already mentioned - been scheduled to take place from 20 to 27 April 2020 in Kyoto, Japan, but was also postponed until further notice by the General Assembly, upon the recommendation of the CCPCJ.

The decision to postpone its 29th session was taken by the Commission on 20 March, through a silence procedure, upon the recommendation of its Extended Bureau (which consists of the members of the Bureau and the Chairs of the Regional Groups). I informed the President of the Economic and Social Council accordingly, through a letter transmitted on 20 March. Information on

the postponement was made available online on the dedicated website of the Commission as well as shared through social media channels. I would like to express my sincere thanks for the guidance that the President and the Bureau of the Economic and Social Council provided, including through the circulation of the documentation on criteria for risk assessment, which has facilitated the decision-making on postponement by the Commission.

Following the postponement decision, the Extended Bureau conducted extensive consultations on a possible new format for the 29th session, against the backdrop of a busy calendar of intergovernmental meetings in Vienna in the second half of 2020 as well as potential continued logistical restrictions due to the COVID 19-situation.

During its fifth meeting, held on 13 July 2020, the Extended Bureau endorsed the proposal to recommend the revision of the provisional agenda of the 29th session of the CCPCJ –with a view to focus only on those items that required urgent consideration and to “roll over” the other items to the 30th session of the CCPCJ, to be held in 2021. Following the endorsement of the Extended Bureau and with a view to secure the broad support of Member States participating in the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, the draft decision – which is now before the Council - was placed under silent procedure. Following the expiration of the silent procedure (without any Member State expressing objection), I have requested last Thursday, 16 July, to the President that the draft decision entitled “*Revised Provisional Agenda of the 29th session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice*” – as recommended by the CCPCJ - be considered and acted upon by the Economic and Social Council.

Should the Council adopt the decision, a downscaled - very short - regular 29th session will take place – most likely on 3 December, to be immediately followed by the joined reconvened session of the CCPCJ and the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, which will discuss (as per established practice) the agenda item on “*Strategic, budgetary and administrative questions*”. At its separate meeting of the reconvened

session, tentatively scheduled for 4 December, the Commission will discuss preparations for the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Crime Congresses and consider any procedural matters. Those agenda items on the original (pre-COVID) agenda of the 29th session which will not be taken up in December will be part of the agenda for the 30th session, scheduled to be held in May 2021, including the thematic discussion on *“Effective measures to prevent and counter the smuggling of migrants, while protecting the rights of smuggled migrants, particularly women and children, and those of unaccompanied migrant children”*.

I would also like to mention that, despite the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic to the intergovernmental work, we have been in the meantime, together with the Secretariat to the Governing Bodies, carrying out many consultations, through web-conferencing services, and creative approaches have been applied to sustain the dialogue on Commission-related matters among Member States and other relevant stakeholders.

Contribution to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda

Let me now say a few words about the contribution of the CCPCJ to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The Commission has, at its regular sessions, a standing agenda item under which it discusses its contributions to the follow-up to and the review and implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Commission has also this year, as was the case in previous years, submitted a substantive contribution to the **High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development**.

I am also pleased that the Second Vice-Chair of the Commission, Ambassador Khojesta Fana Ebrahimkhel, was able to participate in the **Integration Segment of the Council** – held on 6 July – and contributed to the panel discussion on *“Leaving no one behind in the context of COVID-19 and the decade of action and delivery”*.

Special attention has been given to the implementation of **Goal 5 on achieving gender equality and women empowerment**, with the CCPCJ and the Commission on Narcotic Drugs joining efforts to foster substantive and meaningful participation of women in their work, including through their “Let’s talk gender” meetings. The two Commissions also held, on 12 June, a joint virtual high-level event in commemoration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the **Beijing Declaration and Plan of Action**, with a view to also discussing the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on women and girls.

Further, in line with **Goal 16 on accountable and inclusive institutions**, the Commission is working on the improvement of the physical and digital accessibility of its work to allow for the active participation of people with disabilities.

To conclude, let me reassure you that the Commission will continue contributing to the work of the Economic and Social Council and cooperating with other functional commissions in the period ahead, including to address the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the social, political and economic life globally.

Thank you very much for your attention.