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Tenth
United Nations Congress
on the Prevention of Crime and the
Treatment of Offenders
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Adoption of the report of the Congress

Draft report

Rapporteur- General: Mr. Matti **Joutsen** (Finland)

Corrigendum

Paragraphs 12 and 13

Replace the existing text by the following:

12. The Tenth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders was officially opened, on behalf of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, by Ms. Louise Frechette, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations. The Deputy Secretary-General noted that the unprecedented challenges posed by the increasingly global criminal networks had led to the recognition that no country alone could cope with the growth of transnational crime. She drew attention to various new forms of transnational crime, stressing that they undermined confidence in political institutions and affected the stability and prosperity of societies. The Deputy Secretary-General stressed that fighting crime in all its forms was an end in itself, because the victims were robbed of their dignity, basic rights, possessions or health or even their lives. Fighting crime was also part of what must be a global effort to create a more peaceful and more prosperous world based on shared values of justice, democracy and human rights for all.

13. On his election as President of the Tenth Congress, His Excellency Mr. Penuell Mpapa Maduna stated that he viewed his election as a reflection of renewed confidence in Africa and as a recognition of the new foundation for crime prevention and criminal justice that had been established in South Africa. He noted that the Tenth Congress was being held at a critical juncture, offering an opportunity for stocktaking and, in particular, for strengthening the response of the international community to the threat posed by transnational organized crime and to the need for effective crime prevention, improved treatment of offenders and greater justice for victims. The declaration to be adopted by the Tenth Congress offered an opportunity to develop a general framework for such international cooperation. He stressed the vulnerability of developing countries in the face of increasing crime, in particular organized crime.

14. The Secretary-General of the Congress, Mr. Pino Arlacchi, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations, Director-General of the United Nations Office at Vienna and Executive Director of the Office for Drug **Control and** Crime Prevention, delivered an opening statement at the Congress. He **stressed that, in the face of the** global threat of organized crime, it was important to guarantee the rule of law, which entailed guaranteeing security, freedom and human dignity. The rule of law constrained those in power and protected vulnerable groups and individuals. He referred to a variety of crimes that had taken on a global dimension, such as money-laundering, corruption and trafficking in human beings. Corruption was especially worrisome, as it affected the criminal justice system. Testimony to the magnitude of the problem was the recent decision to develop an international instrument against corruption. The Secretary-General of the Congress stated that the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, which was being drafted, should be a forward-looking instrument. The Congress was meeting to promote justice throughout the world. It was necessary to ensure that there were no safe havens for criminals.

15. Her Excellency Ms. Hanna Suchocka, Minister of Justice of Poland, noted that the timing of the Tenth Congress was important because it provided an opportunity to review the progress made in crime prevention and criminal justice and formulate plans for future work. The expansion of transnational crime posed a challenge to society. Accordingly, the Tenth Congress should call for expanded and more efficient international cooperation. The weak links in that cooperation should be identified and eliminated or at least minimized. Furthermore, the possibility of basing international cooperation on new approaches should be examined further. One such approach had been made possible by the establishment of the International Criminal Court. In 1996, Poland had made available to the General Assembly a draft of a convention against organized crime; that initiative had made possible another such approach. The finalization and adoption of the draft United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime should receive top priority.