

Réunion : Plénière de la 21^{ème} Commission pour la prévention du crime et la justice pénale

Date : 23 avril 2012

Durée : 6' (153 mots/minute)

Orateur : Représentant de l'Afrique du Sud intervenant au nom du Groupe africain

Difficulté : ***

Éléments à fournir :

criminal justice system	Système de justice pénale
transnational organized crime	criminalité transnationale organisée
UNODC United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime	ONUDC Office des Nations Unies contre la drogue et le crime

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Madam Chairperson,

The African Group welcomes the thematic discussion on violence against migrants, migrant workers and their families, as it provides the opportunity to Member States to reflect, recommit and further identify comprehensive strategies to address this problem.

The Group further expresses its deep concern over the extensive hostility, abuse, violence towards migrants, migrant workers, and their families, motivated by racism, racial discrimination, stigmatization, xenophobia, and other related forms of intolerance, which unfortunately have become more prevalent in the world today.

The Group condemns the practice of mandatory detention of irregular migrants, their criminalization and treatment in the context of border control, which is inconsistent with international human rights law, and therefore deserves to be ceased.

Furthermore, the African Group wishes to stress its concern over the continuation of smuggling of migrants, as well as trafficking in persons, in particular women and children, and reiterates that the root causes of these criminal activities are multifaceted in nature, involving both economic and social aspects.

The Group encourages States to provide appropriate protection and assistance to the victims of trafficking, in line with the pertinent provisions of the relevant conventions and protocols thereto, as well as with domestic laws.

In this regard, the Group urges concerned governments, in particular those of the countries of origin and destination, to support and allocate appropriate resources for programs aimed at strengthening preventive actions. This includes support for information and awareness raising programs for the target groups.

The Group urges the international community to support the efforts of African countries in the implementation of the various mechanisms and programs.

Madam Chairperson,

The African Group is concerned by the links between the different forms of transnational organized crime, in particular drug trafficking, money laundering, corruption, and in some cases terrorism, as they undermine socio-economic progress in our continent, including the challenge they pose in the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

The Group expresses its concern about the issue of maritime piracy and calls on the UNODC to continue to brief all Member States on a regular basis on the ongoing activities and their effectiveness, as well as their management. In this context, the Group welcomes the efforts made by the regional Member States to respond to this transnational threat and calls on the international community to address maritime piracy from its grassroots.

Furthermore, the Group urges actions to tackle maritime piracy, including developing a common policy framework on burden sharing based on the principle of proportionality.

On the issue of cybercrime, the African Group welcomes the adoption of the resolution which established the Working Group on Cybercrime, which had its first meeting in January 2011. The establishment of this working group was timely and a necessary demonstration of the international community's determination to deal with this emerging form of crime.

Madam Chair,

Overcrowded prisons remain a concern for some parts of the African region. We believe that the penitentiary system is part of the whole criminal justice system and should be given due attention. Therefore, the reform of the criminal justice system should also include the penitentiary system, especially for the treatment of prisoners, in particular women and children.

Madam Chairperson,

The African Group recognizes that crime prevention and criminal justice should be put at the center of the rule of law, as an effective and efficient criminal justice system can have positive impact on long term sustainable economic and social development. Therefore the Group is of the view that the Commission has an important role to play in formulating crime prevention and criminal justice responses, to combat transnational crime and believes that it would be useful for the Commission to continue and, where necessary, to review, update and supplement the UN standards and norms in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice.

The Group notes with regret that a number of people, including women and children, throughout the world, still suffer as a result of crimes and that the rights of victims still have not adequately been addressed, and that they may in addition continue to suffer damages even during and after the prosecution of the perpetrators. In this regard, countries are urged to give effect to the rights of victims.

The African Group underscores the importance of legal aid, as an essential element of a fair, humane and efficient criminal justice system. We therefore reiterate the importance of international cooperation to prevent and combat corruption in all its forms, and call upon States to fully uphold their commitments.

The Group stresses its particular concern for the trafficking of cultural property, which is negatively affecting the cultural heritage of our nations.

In conclusion, Madam Chairperson, the African Group reiterates the need for the provision of adequate technical assistance in the area of capacity building, in particular on the collection, analysis and reporting of accurate and reliable data on world crime trends and patterns. Furthermore, technical assistance if needed to build and enhance capacities in the areas of law enforcement and judicial systems, aimed at supporting the efforts of African countries to prevent and combat transnational organized crime.

The Group reiterates its position that the core activities of UNODC should be funded by the regular budget to ensure the predictability and the sustainability of resources required to fulfill

its mandates, while encouraging donors to continue to provide extra-budgetary contributions to support the activities of the Office.

Madam Chair,

Let me therefore take this opportunity again to assure you of the full support of the African Group during this Session of the Commission.

I thank you.

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