Report of the Expert Group Meeting on Crime Statistics held in Vienna from 4-6 February 2013

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The United Nations Statistical Commission discussed the topic of Crime Statistics at its forty-third session in February 2012 (see E/2012/24-E/CN.3/2012/34, chap I.A), and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ) discussed the topic at its twenty-first session (see E/2012/30-E/CN.15/2012/24 and Corr.1 and 2, chap I.B). As part of the follow up activities to this debate, the United Nations Statistics Division convened an Expert Group Meeting (EGM), which was hosted in Vienna, Austria from 4 to 6 February 2013 by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, with the support of the INEGI/UNODC Center of Excellence for statistics on government, public security, victimization and justice.

2. The specific objective of the EGM was to discuss the 'Report of the National Institute of Statistics and Geography of Mexico and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime on a Road Map to improve the quality and availability of crime statistics at the national and international levels' (see E/CN.3/2013/11) and its implementation. This report will be discussed at the forty-fourth session of the Statistical Commission (26 February – 1 March 2013) and the CCPCJ (22-26 April 2013) and the conclusions of the EGM will be distributed as a room document to the Statistical Commission.

3. The Expert Group ("the Group") attending the EGM was composed of statisticians and analysts from national, regional and international institutions, reflecting a variety of different technical and geographical expertise.

II. CONCLUSIONS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ROAD MAP

4. The importance of a strengthened relationship between the UN Statistical Commission and the CCPCJ was also recognized as central to the successful implementation of the Road Map. As a result of this EGM, the Group proposes that a mechanism for the monitoring of the implementation of the Road Map should be jointly organized by the Statistical Commission and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. In this framework, a group of substantive and technical experts could be established to regularly monitor and advise on the implementation of the Road Map. The expert group format is uniquely suited to this purpose, as it reflects different perspectives and allows for broad participation of varying areas of technical expertise. The

composition of such a group should reflect the variety of stakeholders involved in the production, dissemination and analysis of statistical information on crime and criminal justice: statisticians and analysts from national statistical offices, national institutions of the criminal justice system (including police, judiciary and prison administrations), regional and international organizations, as well as from academia and research institutions.

5. The discussions at the EGM resulted in a series of conclusions to the meeting, regarding the way forward for the implementation of the Road Map. Several general themes arose, and they apply to individual areas or topics, notably: the need for coordination between relevant actors at the national, regional and international levels in order to improve the quality of data, data collection and dissemination, as well as the importance of sharing of experiences and good practices; the need for clear definitions for statistical purposes of crimes and criminal justice procedures, as well as guidance manuals for the collection and analysis of crime statistics with a view to meeting policy needs; and the need to strengthen national, regional and international partnerships between statistical bodies and crime and justice organizations with a view to better collaboration and learning from best practices, as well as to increase the profile and value of crime statistics as priority policy-relevant issues.

6. The EGM also highlighted the importance of bringing the issue of crime statistics to the attention of the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ), which will take place in 2015 in Qatar. This important forum could discuss strategies and approaches to support the production and use of statistical data on crime and criminal justice to improve crime prevention policies and to promote the rule of law.

7. The Group also agrees on the following conclusions in relation to topics included in the Road Map:

   With regards to the International Classification of Crime for Statistical purposes (ICCS):

   a. The International Classification of Crime for statistical purposes (ICCS) is needed and very timely. The Group agrees that an international crime classification developed through an event-based approach is feasible and that it will ensure better consistency and comparability of data. The current ICCS is an excellent basis from which to build, while further work is required to finalize it.

   b. The Group also approves the current approach where elementary crime offences are mapped into broad categories on the basis of selected criteria and, in parallel, selected crime attributes/tags are used to describe additional characteristics for analytical purposes (such as characteristics of victims and offenders).

   c. It is suggested that the experience of other national and international

classification systems should be taken into proper account in the further development of the ICCS.

d. In view of developing and testing the ICCS, the Group identifies the need to include all relevant national institutions and use existing mechanisms to thoroughly test the ICCS in a large and diverse number of countries. At country level, the testing exercise should be conducted in the framework of existing mechanisms and processes to coordinate and standardize crime statistics.

e. The Group stresses the importance of coordinating with existing international processes aimed at improving consistency and harmonization of statistics on crime and criminal justice, and it welcomes the support of national and international/supranational organizations. It also welcomes the support of the INEGI/UNODC Center of Excellence for statistics on governance, public security, victimization and justice to contribute to the further development of the ICCS.

8. With regards to organized crime (OC):

a. The Group recommends that the finalization of the national-level framework for OC analysis should be pursued, with the priority of identifying a core set of statistical data that can be produced in a comparable manner by a large set of countries. The support of the INEGI/UNODC Center of Excellence for statistics on governance, public security, victimization and justice and other multilateral organizations is welcomed in the finalization of the framework. The Group also calls for the framework to undergo further testing.

b. The Group identifies the development of operational definitions to guide the production of statistical data on OC, including the concept of transnational organized crime flows, as an important next step in the development and implementation of the framework. It was also mentioned that additional crime types (such as money laundering) should be added as a core component of the flow analysis.

c. The Group notes that the development of a system of attributes/tags should become part of the regular collection of police-recorded offence data so as to better identify crimes committed by organized criminal groups. This process should be developed in accordance with the approach taken in the ICCS.

9. With regards to corruption:

a. The Group recognizes that corruption is a complex phenomenon, and a comprehensive effort to better understand it is needed. In that sense, a flexible statistical toolkit that can be applied by Member States, according to their unique characteristics and public policy needs, should be developed. This statistical toolkit should be based on existing practices as developed by multilateral and international

organizations, as well as those shaped by national experiences.

b. The Group suggests that a menu of statistical methods (including sample surveys, administrative data on corruption cases/offences and policy relevant indicators) should be developed to promote an experience-based and comprehensive approach to the measurement of corruption. Some of these methods should include experience-based surveys on corruption and integrity, the collection of statistical data on institutional actions to prevent and punish corruption, and also data on corruption-related offences from the criminal justice system.

c. There is a need to develop a standard definition of corruption types and forms for statistical purposes to help facilitate the implementation of the toolkit across Member States. While, these definitions need to be operational in order to guide the implementation of data collection tools, they should follow an approach which is consistent with the ICCS.

d. It is proposed that a core group of technical experts on corruption measurement be established to articulate the above-noted menu of corruption measurement approaches and to produce methodological guidelines and good practices.

10. With regards to trafficking in persons (TIP):

a. There is a need to develop a variety of methods to collect data on TIP, notably through a core set of administrative data (with an effort to improve geographical coverage of such data). It was noted that relevant data are also collected and stored by non-governmental and other organizations, and such sources could be considered to complement data from law enforcement agencies and the judiciary.

b. There is a need to develop a standard definition of TIP for statistical purposes, to improve consistency and comparability of the regular collection of administrative data for criminal justice systems across Member States. The Group also suggests that complementary methods of data collection, such as focus group interviews targeting particular groups (for example, victims of trafficking or their family members, perpetrators imprisoned for trafficking, law enforcement officers) and sample surveys targeting at-risk groups (such as migrants or their family members) should be used to improve the quality and coverage of data on TIP.

11. With regards to business crime and victimization surveys:

a. The group suggests that a manual for the conduct of crime victimization surveys on the business sector should be developed as a complementary tool to the UNODC-UNECE Manual on Victimization Surveys, which covers surveys on households. The manual should include guidance on the scope and objectives of such surveys; the definition of "business units"; which core topics may be included; how

to involve relevant stakeholders and respondents; methodologies for sampling, questionnaires and respondent selection; the development of appropriate indicators (such as prevalence, incidents, loss, etc.); and administration of the surveys. Such a manual could also suggest ways to make better use of existing methods for gathering data on victimization experienced by individuals in the workplace, and could be developed with the support of INEGI/UNODC Center of Excellence for statistics on governance, public security, victimization and justice.

12. With regards to capacity building:

    a. The Group recognizes the need for Member States to harmonize concepts, definitions and classifications, as well as methodologies, with respect to crime statistics. The Group underlines the importance that Member States integrate crime statistics as a core component of national statistical strategies.

    b. The Group highlights the importance of capacity-building activities at the regional level, including the need to develop regional networks of experts and statisticians. The Group noted the possibility of replicating the experience of the UNODC-INEGI Centre of Excellence in other regions. In order to ensure consistency with existing standards and methodologies, capacity building activities should be conducted in coordination with UNODC; the production of further training material and technical documentation is considered as an effective way to facilitate capacity building programmes and ensure international consistency.

    c. Both at the national and regional levels, the Group recommends coordination between National Statistical Offices (NSOs), crime and justice institutions, to improve the quality and coverage of the collection and dissemination of crime statistics. While it is acknowledged that countries have different organizational mechanisms to produce crime statistics, the Group recognizes the importance of production and dissemination of crime and criminal justice statistics being coordinated across the different institutions and that a national statistical system on crime is established, with clear roles and responsibilities assigned to relevant national institutions; the Group also suggests that NSOs should become more involved in the area of crime statistics.

    d. The Group recognizes the role of multilateral financial institutions in supporting regional and international initiatives aimed at improving and harmonizing crime statistics, and encourages the coordination of these efforts to prevent any working in parallel and allow for building on existing practices. In particular, efforts should be made to keep statistical standards as harmonized as possible to ensure a consistent approach across regions and countries.

e. The Group reiterates the importance for donors to align their own monitoring processes with national monitoring systems, and to invest in the strengthening of national data collection capacity, in line with the 'Busan Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation' guiding principles on aid effectiveness. The limited human and financial resources of NSOs should be strategically invested in the establishment of robust and sustainable national monitoring systems, rather than in the conduct of parallel, ad hoc surveys commissioned by donors or partners.

f. The Group also highlighted the importance of sharing experiences and good practices of international or regional partnerships to support countries' capacities; furthermore, examples of national coordination activities to improve crime statistics could be drawn from other areas (such as from health or labour statistics) and provide good practices for organizational and/or institutional frameworks.

13. With regards to the UN-Crime Trends Survey (CTS):

a. The Group recognizes the CTS as the most important statistical tool to collect and disseminate information on crime and criminal justice at the global level.

b. In order to strengthen the CTS, the Group acknowledges the key role played by focal points of Member States and it notes that such focal points should preferably be located in national institutions directly involved in the coordination of the production, coordination and collection process of statistical data on crime and criminal justice. It suggests that focal points are provided with further support and guidance through dedicated training on the compilation of the CTS. It is also recommended that feedback and two-way communication between UNODC and the focal points on the results of the data collection and analysis be strengthened.

c. There is general support for the system of rotating modules in the CTS, and it was suggested that a multi-year programme be developed to facilitate planning of data collection by Member States and to build consistent time series.

d. The Group also notes the need to strengthen regional partnerships, including those with regional organizations, United Nations Regional Commissions and PNI institutes. This coordination would improve multilateral coordination, avoid the duplication of data collection activities and reduce responding burden on countries.

e. On the basis of the successful experience of the Global Study on Homicide, the Group encourages UNODC to gradually expand its production of analytical products to other forms of crime

f. It is noted that better designed and more user-friendly web-based tools for collecting and disseminating information from the CTS could be

developed.

g. It is suggested that UNODC explores the possibility of using existing publicly-available data sources to complement data collected through the CTS, subject to the review of the Member State in question.

h. It is suggested that UNODC review the content of the CTS, in line with policy relevance and the need to balance data needs with the burden on Member States.

14. With regards to the Global Study on Homicide 2013:

a. The Group emphasizes that the Global Study on Homicide provides the international community with a reference source of data and analysis on this crime. The Group acknowledges the high quality of this publication and also agreed that the study should continue to be produced on a regular basis.

b. Suggestions for further inclusion in the 2013 study include the collection and use of more detailed and disaggregated data; the use of longer time series where possible; the continued use of national, sub-national, regional and sub-regional data; further analysis on the use of firearms and other weapons, intimate partner and family violence, victims and offenders. Also recommended was further analysis of homicide rates related to variations in population composition, policies and related risk factors.

c. The Group also notes that it is important to develop links with on-going research and academia, as well as further strengthen partnerships with sectoral and regional organizations to deepen analysis and tap into existing resources.

d. The Group highlights the need for better availability of data, particularly from Africa and Asia, in order to increase data coverage and completeness of analysis.

15. With regards to the post-2015 development agenda and the Millennium Development Goals:

a. The Group agreed on the importance of crime and public safety/citizen security issues for the post-2015 development agenda, while noting that these issues were already included in the Millennium Declaration. Accordingly, the Group supported the need to identify goals in the crime and security area. While good quality data to monitor crime and security exist, the Group also noted the importance of including the Rule of Law and governance dimensions, including the role of enablers such as corruption, in the global development framework. The need to identify relevant indicators for these dimensions was noted, as was the interest in developing innovative indicators to reflect the nuances in each Member State.

b. The Group also highlighted the desire to involve NSOs and other

national stakeholders during the design of any indicators pursued for post-2015 goals.

III. ORGANIZATION OF THE MEETING

A. Opening of the Meeting

16. The meeting was opened by Mr. Sandeep Chawla, UNODC Deputy Director and Director of the Division for Policy Analysis and Public Affairs, who welcomed the participants on behalf of UNODC and the UN Statistical Division and thanked the National Institute of Statistics and Geography of Mexico (INEGI) for their valuable support in the organization of this meeting.

B. Attendance

17. The meeting was attended by experts from Australia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, El Salvador, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Italy, Kenya, Lithuania, Mexico, the Netherlands, the Philippines, Switzerland, Turkey, and the United States.

18. The following international organizations and research institutions were also represented at the meeting: UN Office on Drugs and Crime, UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), World Bank, Inter-American Development Bank (IADB), Eurostat, Fundamental Rights Agency for Europe, Organization of American States, (OAS), Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), European Institute for Crime Prevention and Control (HEUNI), Small Arms Survey and Transcrime.

C. Election of the Chair

19. Mr. Adrian Franco from INEGI was elected Chair of the EGM by consensus.

D. Adoption of the Agenda

20. The following agenda was adopted for the meeting:

A. <u>How to improve statistics on difficult-to-measure crimes</u>
   i.   Statistics on organized crime
   ii. Measurement of corruption
   iii. Measurement of trafficking in persons

B. <u>How to improve statistical standards to measure crime</u>
   i.   Developing guidelines on surveys of crime affecting the business sector

ii. Reviewing on-going work to develop the International Classification on Crime

C. <u>How to improve global data collection and analysis of crime</u>
   i. The 2013 Global Study on Homicide, content, analysis and data sources
   ii. The global data collection on crime: current status and ways to improve the UN-CTS

D. <u>Global issues to improve the quality and relevance of crime statistics</u>
   i. Are there indicators on crime and security suitable for the post-2015 development agenda?
   ii. Countries' needs and regional partnerships for capacity building on crime statistics

E. <u>The way forward</u>

F. <u>Adoption of the report</u>

IV. SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS

Introduction

21. An introduction to the meeting and its main objectives was given by Ms. Angela Me, Chief of Research and Trends Analysis Branch at UNODC. Ms. Me introduced the main purpose of the meeting, i.e. the discussion of the 'Road Map to improve Crime Statistics at national and international level' and to agree on concrete steps and priorities for the implementation of this Road Map. Ms. Me invited participants to engage in an open and frank dialogue on the challenges and opportunities for the improvement of crime statistics, on the priorities to be set and pursued in this process, and on the concrete measures needed to achieve these priorities.

22. Ms. Me then outlined several key issues and challenges discussed in the Road Map that are covered in the sessions of the EGM. It was pointed out that official administrative crime statistics show only that part of crime that comes to the attention of authorities. The extent of the unknown 'dark figure' of crime depends on a number of factors, including the national response to crime and the type of crime in question. The progressive standardization of concepts, the strengthening of national capacities and a wider use of sample surveys are seen as promising directions to improve availability and quality of crime data. Additional challenges exist when it comes to 'difficult-to-measure' crimes, such as corruption, trafficking in persons or other forms of organized crime. The development of specific methodologies for the measurement of

such crimes should be encouraged. For example, various kinds of representative sample surveys can play a key role in analysis of 'difficult-to-measure' crimes. In addition to improving standards and methodologies, the need to provide technical assistance is a challenge where several actors, both at national, regional and international level should unite in a broad coalition to produce better data on crime and criminal justice so that better policies to prevent and fight crime can be developed.

A. How to improve statistics on difficult-to-measure crimes

Statistics on organized crime
Contributions by E. Savona (Italy) and J. Dawson-Faber (UNODC)
Discussant: C. Vilalta (Mexico)

23. In the first session on statistics relating to 'difficult-to-measure' crimes, two different approaches on the quantification of organized crime (OC) were presented. In the first, the measurement of OC is approached through a statistical framework composed of five areas relevant to OC (criminal groups, activities, state response, enablers, civil society response) and a list of statistical indicators for which data have to be produced at country level. This approach provides a first framework and structure for analysis and measurement of OC, as well as suggesting concrete steps to be taken to improve data collection, data interpretation and measurement at national level.

24. An alternative approach to assess OC consists of analyzing illicit flows, be they illicit drugs, human trafficking or the smuggling of migrants, environmental resources, firearms, counterfeit goods or medicines, by adopting a transnational perspective. The concept of flows implies that the analysis needs to look simultaneously at countries of origin, transit and destination and at the volume and value of goods trafficked between them. The analysis of the nature of these markets through a variety of quantitative and qualitative methods can provide insights into activities and actors of organized crime groups.

25. These two approaches, while different, offer great potential to provide better understanding of OC when used in a complementary way. In particular, the 'flow concept' is a very useful tool to provide an international perspective to national data and analysis on criminal groups and their criminal activities. It also provides opportunities for indirect measurement, such as through production, import and export statistics.

26. The development of statistical frameworks on OC at country level, through a bottom-up approach, represents a viable approach to guide the production of data and their analysis. It is recognized that issues of data availability exist, and a first step towards rectifying these issues consists of the development of a

core-set of indicators that can be produced by Member States. A balance needs to be found between the amount of statistical information that is needed to describe a complex phenomenon such as OC and, on the other end, the need to maintain an indicators list that is short and feasible to complete. The development of common and detailed definitions is necessary to increase data consistency and international comparability.

27. A feasible way to improve data availability on OC is to improve existing administrative data collection by generating data on the 'nature' of various crime types; that is, the situational context in which offences occur (e.g. perpetrated by gangs or organized crime groups). Applying such 'tags' or crime 'characteristics' to data collected can form part of the regular data collection on police-recorded offences and provide valuable information on trends and patterns of organized crime activity. The provision of data and analysis on members of criminal groups is also crucial to improve understanding of causes and drivers of OC. The use of surveys on prison inmates is a source of statistical information to be further developed.

Measurement of corruption
Contributions by F. Recanatini (World Bank) and E. Bisogno (UNODC)
Discussant: E. Guerrero (Mexico)

28. Measurement of corruption is particularly difficult because of the hidden and complex nature of corruption offences. Following the generation of perception-based indices on corruption, there is a need to develop empirically-based and action oriented statistical information that can validly assess corruption patterns and provide data for policy making. To develop comprehensive and solid corruption measurements, it is important to articulate the broad concept of corruption (different offence types, petty vs. grand corruption), and different information needs need to be spelled out (extent, modalities, costs, awareness, etc.). Two guiding principles should be followed to generate valid data on corruption: first, data methodology and ownership should remain with Member States. Second, experience-based measures with a sound methodological framework are preferred over perception-based measures.

29. In order to come to a comprehensive understanding of the phenomenon, corruption cannot be measured with only one indicator. Many different indicators, adjusted for country and situational context, are necessary to get to meaningful results. A mix of these indicators and diversity in the data sources is worth pursuing. Data, but also methodology, needs to be made publicly available; while experts are aware of the measurement errors of these indicators, these errors should also be introduced into the public discourse in an effort to increase transparency.

30. Cultural aspects and tolerance towards corruption must also to be taken into

account. Corruption measurement should be seen as a 'toolbox,' with the selection of the right tool dependent on the country in question. Quantitative measures are only one tool among many others. Reducing the complexity of corruption measures is key, as is the need to use experience-based measures in addition to perception-based measures: experience-based measures and perception-based measures are not substitutes. Continuous monitoring of corruption serves to assess anti-corruption measures and to raise awareness, and such monitoring may be a driver of change.

Measurement of trafficking in persons
Contributions by K. Kangaspunta (UNODC) and S. Clarke (Eurostat)

31. The European Commission data collection on Trafficking in Persons (TIP), based on Directive 2011/36/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council on preventing and combating trafficking in human beings and protecting its victims, aimed at deriving common statistical indicators on victims and suspected traffickers. Preliminary results from the first data collection showed that victims are predominantly adults (80%), females (78%) and trafficked for sexual exploitation (66%). Not all countries were able to provide all the requested data, however, and the data collection exercise will be evaluated to identify how it can be improved in the future. In particular, there is the potential for obtaining more data from NGOs, and for collecting more comprehensive information on the citizenship of victims.

32. UNODC came to similar conclusions as Eurostat regarding the results derived from data on human trafficking at a global level, which have even more problems regarding coverage and quality. The UNODC Global Report on Trafficking in Persons is mostly based on detected cases provided by national authorities. Due to the nature of these data, UNODC was not able to assess the level of trafficking, nor the severity, but rather focused on other crucial information needs: the distribution of different forms of exploitation and the breakdown of prosecutions and convictions by sex and region. For the next report, more qualitative information from national experts to contextualize the data will be used.

B. How to improve statistical standards to measure crime

Developing guidelines on surveys of crime affecting the business sector
Contributions by A. Franco (Mexico) and M. Jandl (UNODC)
Discussant: A. Beck (United States)

33. There are several challenges affecting surveys on crime affecting the business sector, notably measurement issues, as well as technical and methodological concerns. Technical and methodological challenges to these surveys include the need for correct sampling, identifying the right respondents, and balancing the size and structure of such surveys with the need for information and timely

responses. Also noted were the limitations of administrative data to provide information on crime affecting this sector, and the fact that victimization surveys are predominantly focused on household and personal victimization. A few such surveys have been conducted, however, and have advanced both methodological and conceptual work in the use of such surveys. This has also raised awareness in political and economic sectors about how crime and corruption affect various business sectors. The need to develop guidelines to standardize the design of business victimization surveys and the need to engage national authorities in the design and collection responsibilities for such surveys were presented as ways of moving forward with this type of tool.

34. When developing business sector surveys, there is a need to define clear and feasible objectives, and to identify specific sectors to target. Given the relatively low response rates, precision of estimates can be an issue; this lack of precision and any errors should be acknowledged in the results of the study in an effort to improve transparency. It is important to realize that different propensities to respond exist and creative ways need to be developed to understand the nature of respondents and non-respondents.

35. It was suggested to concentrate on smaller surveys that focus on specific types of crimes, rather than on all-encompassing, expensive and time-consuming surveys. Nowadays, there is increasing reluctance to provide information and distrust in surveys. In order to increase response rates, face-to-face surveys and personal contact are required. There is a need for clear definitions and language, as well as better indicators, to ensure comparability, particularly given the different types of business that exist around the world. Also highlighted was the need to compare survey data to any existing administrative data, and the need to address corruption in surveys on crime affecting business, as there is a relationship. It was clear that the international community is still lacking in experience with regards to testing of methodologies, modes of delivery, etc., for such surveys, and key points for testing (such as the selection of respondents, disclosure concerns, and survey methodology) should be included in a research programme to help address this gap.

Reviewing on-going work to develop the International Classification on Crime
Introduction by E. Bisogno (UNODC)
Discussant: J. M. Jehle (Germany)

36. The International Classification of Crime Framework (ICCF) for statistical purposes was produced in 2011 by a task force jointly established by UNODC and UNECE, with its primary unit of classification being the act/event which constitutes a criminal offence. The principles behind the ICCF include exhaustiveness of the data, a hierarchical structure, mutual exclusivity of the events, and a clear definition of the attributes of these events. The main attributes include the target, seriousness, state of mind of the perpetrator,

modus operandi and policy relevance of the crime. A series of tags was developed to further qualify and describe the crimes.

37. This crime classification, as an event-based approach, is seen as valuable and a benefit to comparability of data across Member States, and ideally will be used worldwide for the recording of offences. Some areas require further revision (such as sexual offences, and offences against public order or authority), as certain general categories of criminal law are different in different jurisdictions. The classification is intended to be applicable at all levels, and Member States should be able to use it as such.

38. It was agreed that 'labeling' crimes causes controversy, as definitions and applications differ across jurisdictions; this further highlights the need to be clear/precise in definitions attached to any label applied to crimes. It was also noted that crime classifications are a separate tool from data collections, and while each have their limits, both are useful complements to one another. The need for clarity in counting rules was also stressed. It was also suggested to reach out to partner agencies for their insight into previous classifications, such as the World Health Organization's "International Classification of Disease (ICD)," while ensuring that the crime classification was consistent with other classification regimes through the UN Statistics Division. Again, a manual regarding the classification was recommended, which would provide guidance for how Member States could match national data to the classification. Finally, it was acknowledged that this classification is effectively a statistical convention, which will evolve over time and thus requires some flexibility. Importantly, the classification needs to be tested in as many Member States as possible.

C. How to improve global data collection and analysis of crime

The 2013 Global Study on Homicide, content, analysis and data sources
Introduction by A. Me (UNODC)
Discussants: M. Aebi (Switzerland) and M.I. Gutierrez (Colombia)

39. The 2011 Global Study on Homicide serves as a reference point for homicide data. After a brief presentation on the structure and topics of the publication (global level and trends, development, firearms, drug trafficking, demographics and sex, sub-national level) participants were asked for feedback on the publication and to provide some input for the next study, to be produced in 2013. The publication was praised, and suggestions brought forward regarding structure and possible points for further analysis.

40. The next Global Study on Homicide will not just be an update of the previous issue but will attempt to expand on the issue of violent crime on a global level. In light of the discussion on indicators on security in the post-2015 MDG process, the chapter on development should remain in the study. More

analysis on homicides connected to other types of crime and homicides connected to intimate partners should be included. The concept of 'intimate partner' needs to be clearly defined to include partners beyond 'spouse' and 'ex-spouse'. It was also suggested that linking homicide data to information on well being and safety could be tried. The response of the criminal justice system to homicide is another relevant topic, with the view of improving the understanding of the relationship between homicide levels/patterns and states' capacities to respond to it.

41. Information on availability of and accessibility to firearms should be taken into consideration for the analysis. The dataset on gun-ownership maintained by the Small Arms Survey could serve as a useful source, as correlations between trends in homicide rate and gun-ownership can be found on a regional level. Additional data on gun availability could be made available through victimization surveys.

42. For trend analysis, the use of a longer time series was suggested. This will certainly not be possible for all countries but could be tried for a number of countries. Supplementing the increase in the timeframe covered, the analysis could focus on changes in the trends and should also pay attention to any acceleration of trends.

43. Analysis on a regional level should be extended. Whenever homicide is used as a proxy for violent crime, regional peculiarities need to be examined closely. A focus in the analysis could be on regions or 'hotspots' that differ from the global/regional trend or pattern.

44. Quality of homicide data is a major concern for UNODC, for Member States and for members of the Expert Group. The composition of the data and the sources of data used in the analysis need to be made transparent. Strict criteria for the selection of data are in place, so these should continue to be published with the data. Also the availability of data, especially for some regions with limited coverage (Africa, Asia) and the ability to disaggregate data are of great concern.

The global data collection on crime: current status and ways to improve the UN-CTS
Introduction by M. Jandl (UNODC)
Discussants: R. Reyes (Philppines) and L. Coimbra (OAS)

45. Participants recognized the United Nations Survey of Crime Trends and Operations of Criminal Justice Systems (UN-CTS) as the most important international data collection project on the topic of crime and criminal justice. The unsatisfactory response rate observed in previous years is frequently not due to lack of data but due to lack of coordination, among international and regional organizations but also within Member States. Further contributing to

the low response rates is a lack of capacity in Member States to provide data or data in desired disaggregation.

46. Ways to improve coverage and quality of data collected through the UN-CTS were discussed. The introduction of national focal points is considered as an effective way to improve response rate, while more technical guidance on the questionnaire is needed. The link between supply and demand of crime data within countries needs to be fostered

47. Providing technical and analytical feedback on data received to those who supply data was considered as an effective strategy to improve data collection and dissemination. Better dissemination and analysis of collected information is needed. Promising initiatives were started on the regional level, but there is still unused information in the UN-CTS. An untapped reservoir of abilities to analyze data from UN-CTS lies within the UN Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme Network Institutes (PNIs).

48. UNODC should keep the modules connected to the special topics discussed at the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ) but should introduce some regularity in the collection of modules. UNODC could develop a multi-year programme cycle. Participants underlined that the questionnaire should not be shortened, while suggestions for possible inclusion in future modules refer to: living conditions in prisons including prevalence of drugs, HIV and violence among prison population; duration of detention, especially for pre-trial detention; costs of incarceration; types of penal institutions used; role of military in security; indigenous rights/ethnicity; type of disposals. On the other hand it was noted that the burden for the respondent is an issue. Some data could be accessed through other channels (for example through the web) and sent to Member States for verification.

49. As a vision for the future of UN-CTS, UNODC could strengthen Member States capacity to provide the requested information by introducing a technological process that empowers Member States to transmit data online. In addition, much work needs to be done to raise awareness on the importance of UN-CTS and UNODC's role to validate data and make use of the data in analysis.

D. Global issues to improve quality and relevance of crime statistics

Are there indicators on crime and security suitable for the post-2015 development agenda?
Introduction by A. Alvazzi Del Frate (Switzerland)

50. The issue of bringing crime and security into the development agenda was discussed. For example, it was noted that no low income fragile or conflict-

affected country had achieved targets set by the MDG by 2011, and that countries that had experienced major violence in the period 1981-2005 recorded poverty levels significantly higher than countries with lower levels of violence. All this points to a close relationship between violence and lack of security and the broader context of social and economic development.

51. The international debate on the post-2015 development agenda has been very active, and the focus of the crime and security components of this agenda has identified some initial targets as the reduction of global violent death and the reduction in physical and sexual violence against women and girls.

52. In addition to the focus on security, it was noted that the issue of rule of law is central in a global development framework. These two dimensions can be seen as two sides of the same coin and are mutually reinforcing. One option discussed is to include a global goal relating to security and the rule of law in the post-2015 development agenda. While there is a need to look at global targets, enablers (such as corruption, human rights) need to be examined at a national level in order to be valuable from a policy perspective.

53. The need for the international statistical community to be creative and innovative in the way indicators are designed, measured and explained to policy makers was noted as a key aspect to moving forward on these goals. A solid statistical package should be prepared with the aim of presenting a technical proposal to address security in the post-2015 development goals.

Countries' needs and regional partnerships for capacity building on crime statistics
Contributions by R. Buluma (Kenya), S. Hasbullah (Indonesia) and S. Gavilanes (Ecuador)

54. The needs of three countries (Ecuador, Indonesia and Kenya) for capacity building on crime statistics and regional partnerships were presented to participants. Many challenges were highlighted, but so was the progress made so far. During presentations and discussions it became clear that the problems are similar in all countries, but different strategies and capacities to deal with them have been developed. The two main challenges for data providers and for institutions taking over a coordinating role in producing crime statistics is to create a network to share experience and to allocate the resources to finance it.

55. Participants gave insight into some of the concrete issues they face in their daily work on national crime statistics. There is a lack of coordination between relevant authorities, which would be crucial to overcome different definitions used by the same authorities. It was suggested that this could either be overcome with a clear mandate for the NSO to form a inter-agency initiative and bring all the relevant authorities to the table or, when NSOs are

not empowered with such a mandate, to appeal to the greater interest in crime statistics to involve all relevant authorities. Further problems mentioned were limited human and financial resources in crime statistics and need for training of data producers to increase quality of data

56. The development of regional initiatives to support countries capacity was highlighted as a sustainable strategy, while the harmonization of statistical standards and data collection tools should pursued at a global level.

57. Full use of crime data for analytical purposes, including at national and regional level, is powerful tool to increase relevance, quality and availability of data. This means that accessibility to existing data needs to be improved, including to researchers and the wider public. This will increase transparency and accountability of crime statistics.

E. The way forward

58. The Group discussed the main conclusions of the meeting and agreed on the conclusions as presented in session II of this report

F. Adoption of the report

59. The Group adopted the draft report at its closing session.