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UNITED NATIONS OFFICE ON DRUGS AND CRIME



Workshop on Measures to Combat Computer-related Crime

1. The Workshop on Measures to Combat Computer-related Crime was organized at the Eleventh United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice held in Bangkok, Thailand from 18 to 25 April 2005. The Workshop was organized in cooperation with the Korean Institute of Criminology.¹

2. After general discussion preceded by presentations on “Cybercrime: Theory and Practice” and “Resources and international cooperation for combating cybercrime”, the Workshop reached the following conclusions and recommendations:

(a) The United Nations should play a leading role in assisting Member States in combating computer-related crime to safeguard the functioning of cyberspace, so that it would not be abused or exploited by criminals or terrorists. In that regard, consideration should be given to the establishment of a virtual forum or online research network to encourage communication among experts throughout the world on the issue of computer-related crime;

(b) Technical assistance and training should be provided by UNODC to States in order to address the lack of capacity and expertise to deal with the problems of computer-related crime. International cooperation should be developed in the areas of information exchange, and research and analysis concerning computer-related crime. Consideration should be given to updating the United Nations Manual on the Prevention and Control of Computer-related Crime and the development of related training tools. Such tools should be made available internationally in order to share knowledge and information concerning ways and means of recognizing, protecting, preventing and handling new types of cybercrime;

(c) International law enforcement cooperation should be further enhanced, including by upgrading the capacity and skills of countries not currently linked to existing law enforcement networks that focus on cybercrime;

(d) States that have not done so should be encouraged to update and harmonize their criminal laws in order to counter computer-related crime more effectively, giving due attention to aspects related to the defining of offences, investigative powers and the collection of evidence. The sharing of experience among countries is critical to that endeavour and, in that regard, States should take into consideration the work of regional organizations;

¹ The following documents were submitted to the Workshop:

(a) Background paper on the Workshop on Measures to Combat Computer-related Crime (A/CONF.203/14);

(b) Discussion guide (A/CONF.203/PM.1 and Corr.1);

(c) Reports of the regional preparatory meetings for the Eleventh Congress (A/CONF.203/RPM.1/1, A/CONF.203/RPM.2/1, A/CONF.203/RPM.3/1 and Corr.1 and A/CONF.203/RPM.4/1).

(e) Governments, the private sector and non-governmental organizations should work together to counter computer-related crime, including by raising public awareness, engaging in preventive activities and enhancing the capacity and skills of criminal justice professionals and policymakers. Such cooperative efforts should include a strong focus on preventive aspects;

(f) The results of the Workshop on Measures to Combat Computer-related Crime should be made available to the second phase of the World Summit on the Information Society, to be held in Tunis from 16 to 18 November 2005.

3. The present note is made pursuant to the latter recommendations of the Workshop. It should also be noted that the results of the Workshop were reflected in the Bangkok Declaration adopted by the Congress as follows:

“We note that, in the current period of globalization, information technology and the rapid development of new telecommunication and computer network systems have been accompanied by the abuse of those technologies for criminal purposes. We therefore welcome efforts to enhance and supplement existing cooperation to prevent, investigate and prosecute high-technology and computer-related crime, including by developing partnerships with the private sector. We recognize the important contribution of the United Nations to regional and other international forums in the fight against cybercrime and invite the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, taking into account that experience, to examine the feasibility of providing further assistance in that area under the aegis of the United Nations in partnership with other similarly focused organizations.” (paragraph 16)

4. More information can be found in the final report of the Eleventh United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (A/CONF.203/18). (See: http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/crime_congress_11/index.html).