

Resolution 19/7

Strengthening of regional networks for international cooperation in criminal matters

The Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice,

Recognizing the importance of international legal cooperation in efforts to combat all forms of transnational organized crime,

Underlining the valuable contribution made by regional networks for cooperation in combating transnational organized crime,

Recognizing the potential benefits of establishing such networks to the extent possible in regions where they do not exist,

Taking note of the contributions submitted by several regional networks during the Twelfth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, held in Salvador, Brazil, from 12 to 19 April 2010, and the participation of representatives of various networks, which demonstrated the importance of coordination among the various institutions involved in the prevention, investigation and prosecution of transnational organized crime,

Taking note also of the fact that, in order to adequately combat serious crime at the global level, international legal cooperation among the members of the various existing networks should be promoted and that, at the present time, increased cooperation between regional networks would seem to be more efficient than the establishment of a judicial cooperation network at the global level,

Taking into consideration the establishment of the centres of excellence on forensic analysis (Costa Rica), drug demand reduction and prison reform (Dominican Republic), urban crime prevention (El Salvador), transnational organized crime (Guatemala) and maritime security (Panama), whose prime objective is to promote interregional cooperation in criminal matters through the exchange of experience and reliable statistics, along with regional capacity-building for experts and officials involved in crime prevention and criminal investigation,

1. *Urges* Member States participating in networks for legal cooperation to strengthen international cooperation in criminal matters and the coordination among such networks;

2. *Recommends* that interaction between regional networks should preserve the fundamental principles, traditions and distinctive features of each regional network and should take into account differences in legal systems and legal cultures;

3. *Encourages* Member States to facilitate the establishment of similar regional networks, to the extent possible, through, inter alia, training and the exchange of best practices in criminal matters, with the assistance of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime as necessary;

4. *Recommends* that the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime consider inviting existing regional networks to participate in its fifth session, with the aim of improving

cooperation between regional networks, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the States parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto.¹¹²

¹¹² United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vols. 2225, 2237, 2241 and 2326, No. 39574.