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Role of responsive and accountable public governance in achieving the Millennium Development Goals and the post-2015 development agenda

Member States underlined the importance of security and the rule of law for the post-2015 development agenda in the context of the deliberations during the reconvened sessions of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in December 2012. As the consultation for the formulation of the MDG agenda takes centre stage, the international community has a unique opportunity to prioritize these as goals and as enabling conditions.

Several of the issues suggested by Member States for consideration in the post-2015 development agenda are crucial to make public governance work. It was stressed that corruption and other forms of economic crime hamper development by depriving economic actors of resources that are vital for poverty eradication. Weak justice institutions could render societies susceptible to transnational organized crime and drug trafficking, especially in fragile and post-conflict States where the consequences of violence on development are significant.

The measures suggested by Member States to address these issues in the context of the post-2015 development agenda will both require and enhance responsive, transparent and accountable public governance. Suggested measures include judicial sector reform, including measures to combat corruption and enhance access to justice and the rule of law. In this regard, Member States stressed the important role of United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice in order to achieve effective, fair, humane and accountable criminal justice systems.

Member States further highlighted the relevance of the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, to be held in Qatar in 2015, which will focus on "Integrating crime prevention and criminal justice into the wider United Nations agenda to address social and economic challenges and to promote the rule of law at the national and international levels, and public participation". The issues to be discussed in this context are highly relevant to all core dimensions of public governance.

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