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Crime prevention and criminal justice

Follow-up to the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and preparations for the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

Note by the Secretary-General

Summary

The present note contains information on the deliberations held and the action taken by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its twenty-eighth session, held in Vienna from 20 to 24 May 2019, as requested by the General Assembly in its resolution [73/184](#), entitled “Follow-up to the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and preparations for the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice”. It complements the information contained in the report of the Secretary-General on the follow-up to the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and preparations for the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, submitted to the Commission for consideration at that session ([E/CN.15/2019/11](#)).

* [A/74/50](#).



1. In its resolution [73/184](#), entitled “Follow-up to the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and preparations for the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice”, the General Assembly reiterated its invitation to Governments to take into consideration the Doha Declaration 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, when formulating legislation and policy directives and to make all efforts, where appropriate, to implement the principles contained therein in conformity with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations. Also in that resolution, the Assembly welcomed the work undertaken by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in following up on the implementation of the Doha Declaration.
2. In the same resolution, the General Assembly decided to hold the Fourteenth Congress in Kyoto, Japan, from 20 to 27 April 2020, with pre-Congress consultations to be held on 19 April 2020. The Assembly also decided that the high-level segment of the Congress, at which States would be invited to be represented at the highest possible level, should be held during the first two days. The Assembly further decided that the Congress should adopt a single declaration, to be submitted to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice for its consideration.
3. Also in the same resolution, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to finalize the discussion guide for the regional preparatory meetings and for the Fourteenth Congress in a timely manner. The draft of that guide had been prepared in cooperation with the institutes of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme network, taking into account the recommendations of the Commission, as well as additional comments and feedback from Member States, in order to enable the regional preparatory meetings for the Congress to be held as early as possible in 2019.
4. Also in its resolution [73/184](#), the General Assembly reiterated its request to the Secretary-General to proceed with the organization of the four regional preparatory meetings for the Fourteenth Congress and to make available the necessary resources for the participation of the least developed countries in those meetings and in the Congress itself, as well as making a special effort to organize the regional preparatory meeting for European and other States so as to benefit from their input. The Assembly urged Governments to actively participate in the regional preparatory meetings and invited their representatives to examine the substantive agenda items and workshop topics of the Congress and to make action-oriented recommendations for consideration by the Congress. In addition, the Assembly invited Governments to undertake preparations for the Congress at an early stage by all appropriate means.
5. In the same resolution, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to: (a) prepare a plan for the documentation for the Fourteenth Congress, in consultation with the extended Bureau of the Commission; (b) appoint a Secretary-General and an Executive Secretary of the Congress, to perform their functions under the rules of procedure for United Nations congresses on crime prevention and criminal justice; (c) ensure, in collaboration with Member States, a wide and effective programme of public information relating to the preparations for the Congress, to the Congress itself and to the follow-up to and implementation of its recommendations; and (d) provide UNODC with the necessary resources to support the preparations for and holding of the Congress.
6. Also in the same resolution, the General Assembly requested the Commission to accord sufficient time at its twenty-eighth session to reviewing the progress made in the preparations for the Fourteenth Congress, to finalize in a timely manner all outstanding organizational and substantive arrangements and to make its recommendations to the Assembly through the Economic and Social Council.

Consideration by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice during its twenty-eighth session

7. At the twenty-eighth session of the Commission, introductory statements were made by the Secretariat on the preparations for the Fourteenth Congress and the follow-up to the Thirteenth Congress, and the Commission had before it, for its consideration, the report of the Secretary-General on the follow-up to the Thirteenth Congress and preparations for the Fourteenth Congress ([E/CN.15/2019/11](#)). The report contained information on the follow-up to the Thirteenth Congress and the preparations made to date for the Fourteenth Congress, as well as information regarding the venue, dates, outcome, documentation, and rules of procedure of the Fourteenth Congress. It also contained information on the regional preparatory meetings and the discussion guide for the regional preparatory meetings and for the Congress itself. The Commission also had before it the finalized discussion guide ([A/CONF.234/PM.1](#)).

8. The rules of procedure of the Thirteenth Congress were made available to the Commission. As no proposal was made to amend the rules of procedure, they will be before the Fourteenth Congress for adoption, supplemented by the guidelines contained in paragraph 2 of General Assembly resolution [56/119](#).

9. At its twenty-eighth session, the Commission took into consideration the reports of the five regional preparatory meetings for the Fourteenth Congress, which were held as follows:

(a) Asia and Pacific Regional Preparatory Meeting, held in Bangkok from 22 to 24 January 2019 (see [A/CONF.234/RPM.1/1](#));

(b) Western Asia Regional Preparatory Meeting, held in Beirut from 26 to 28 March 2019 (see [A/CONF.234/RPM.2/1](#));

(c) Latin American and Caribbean Regional Preparatory Meeting, held in Santiago from 5 to 7 February 2019 (see [A/CONF.234/RPM.3/1](#));

(d) African Regional Preparatory Meeting, held in Addis Ababa from 9 to 11 April 2019 (see [A/CONF.234/RPM.4/1](#));

(e) European Regional Preparatory Meeting, held in Vienna from 23 to 25 April 2019 (see [A/CONF.234/RPM.5/1](#)).

10. The representative of Japan, the host country for the Fourteenth Congress, informed the Commission about the preparatory process for the Congress, including the preparations for the youth forum, to be held in Kyoto from 13 to 15 April 2020. The main theme of the youth forum would be “Youth engagement for a safe and secure society: towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals”. He also informed the Commission that his Government had decided to host a governmental expert group meeting in Kyoto in September 2019 and announced that it intended to coordinate with the representatives of the regional groups regarding the nomination of participating experts.

11. The representative of Kazakhstan informed the Commission about his Government’s interest in hosting the Fifteenth Congress, to be held in 2025, in Nur-Sultan.

12. Many speakers expressed appreciation for the work undertaken by the host country, Japan, as well as for the preparations by the Secretariat for the Fourteenth Congress, including the finalization of the discussion guide. Speakers welcomed the convening of the regional preparatory meetings, emphasizing that their outcomes would make an important contribution to negotiation on the Kyoto declaration. It was noted that the European Regional Preparatory Meeting, which was the first to be held since 1995, should also be organized for future congresses within the regular budget.

13. Reference was made to the possible format of the Kyoto declaration, with a number of speakers noting that it should build on but not repeat the Doha Declaration. Several speakers expressed the view that the Kyoto declaration should be pragmatic,

action-oriented, short and concise, with a strong and overarching political message that reflected Member States' commitment to addressing the main challenges, with a particular focus on practitioners, and that the declaration should connect crime prevention and criminal justice to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The importance of finalizing negotiations on the declaration in Vienna prior to the Congress was also mentioned.

14. The important role of the Commission as the main policymaking body of the United Nations on crime prevention and criminal justice was underlined. It was stated that the Commission served as a political forum as well as a technical body that enabled discussions between practitioners and other stakeholders.

15. A number of speakers reported on national efforts to implement the Doha Declaration. In that regard, the timely and comprehensive activities undertaken by UNODC to support Member States in its implementation were welcomed. A representative of Qatar, the host of the Thirteenth Congress, reiterated his Government's commitment to supporting Japan in the preparations for the Fourteenth Congress. He also indicated his Government's intention to continue to support the activities of the Global Programme for the Implementation of the Doha Declaration: Towards the Promotion of a Culture of Lawfulness beyond 2020.

Action taken by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its twenty-eighth session

16. The Commission recommended to the Economic and Social Council the approval of a draft resolution for adoption by the General Assembly entitled "Follow-up to the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and preparations for the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice".

17. In that resolution, the General Assembly would invite Governments to consider taking into account the Doha Declaration when formulating legislation and policy directives and to make all efforts, where appropriate, to implement the principles contained therein, in conformity with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations. The Assembly would also invite Governments and relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to inform the Fourteenth Congress about their activities aimed at the implementation of the Doha Declaration with a view to providing guidance on the formulation of legislation, policies and programmes in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice at the national and international levels, and to that end would request the Secretary-General to prepare a report on the subject, to be submitted to the Congress for its consideration. The Assembly would also request the Secretary-General to prepare an overview of the state of crime and criminal justice worldwide for presentation at the Congress.

18. The General Assembly would also take note of the outcomes of the regional preparatory meetings to be taken into account during the preparations for and the deliberations of the Fourteenth Congress and would invite Member States to consider, as part of the overall theme and substantive agenda items to be discussed at the Congress, focusing on the work of practitioners, to prioritize strengthening international cooperation and capacity-building and to highlight public-private partnership in efforts related to crime prevention, criminal justice and enhancing the rule of law.

19. Furthermore, the General Assembly would request the Commission, in accordance with its resolution [73/184](#), to begin to prepare, at intersessional meetings to be held well in advance of the Fourteenth Congress, a structured, short and concise draft declaration with a robust overarching political message addressing the main topics to be discussed at the Congress, taking into account the outcomes of the regional preparatory meetings, consultations with relevant organizations and entities and the relevant discussions held in preparation for the Congress, as well as the mandate and objectives of the United Nations congresses on crime prevention and criminal justice. In that regard, the Assembly would encourage Member States to

finalize their negotiation of the Kyoto declaration in a timely manner prior to the commencement of the Fourteenth Congress.

20. In that same resolution, the General Assembly would invite Member States to send representatives of the highest possible level to the Fourteenth Congress, for example, Heads of State or Government, government ministers and attorneys general, to make statements in the high-level segment on the theme and substantive items of the Congress and to participate actively in its proceedings by sending legal and policy experts with special training and practical experience in crime prevention and criminal justice. The Assembly would encourage Governments to make preparations for the Congress at an early stage by all appropriate means, including, where appropriate, by establishing national preparatory committees, with a view to contributing to a focused and productive discussion on the topics and to participating actively in the organization and conduct of the workshops, by submitting national position papers on the various substantive items of the agenda and by encouraging contributions from the academic community and relevant scientific institutions.

21. Also in that resolution, the General Assembly would emphasize the importance of the workshops to be held during the Fourteenth Congress and would invite Member States, intergovernmental organizations and other relevant entities to provide financial, organizational and technical support to UNODC and to the institutes of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme network for the preparations for the workshops, including the preparation and circulation of relevant background material. The Assembly would also invite Member States to include in their delegations panellists and experts who could contribute substantive expertise to the workshops and thus enable active and meaningful discussions. The Assembly would reiterate its request to the Secretary-General to facilitate the participation of developing countries in the workshops, subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources, and would reiterate its encouragement to States, the institutes of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme network, other concerned entities and the Secretary-General to work together in order to ensure that the workshops are well focused and achieve practical results, leading to technical cooperation ideas and projects and documents for enhancing bilateral and multilateral technical assistance activities in crime prevention and criminal justice.

22. In addition, the General Assembly would reiterate its request to the Secretary-General to facilitate the organization of ancillary meetings of non-governmental and professional organizations participating in the Fourteenth Congress, in accordance with past practice, as well as meetings of professional and geographical interest groups, and to take appropriate measures to encourage the participation of the academic and research community in the Congress. The Assembly would also reiterate its request to the Secretary-General to encourage the participation of representatives from relevant entities of the United Nations system in the Congress, bearing in mind the main theme, agenda items and workshop topics of the Congress.

23. In the same resolution, the General Assembly would request the Secretary-General to make available the resources necessary to ensure the participation of the least developed countries in the Fourteenth Congress, in accordance with past practice.

24. Finally, the General Assembly would request the Commission to give high priority at its twenty-ninth session to considering the declaration of the Fourteenth Congress, with a view to recommending, through the Economic and Social Council, appropriate follow-up by the Assembly at its seventy-fifth session. It would request the Secretary-General to ensure proper follow-up to the resolution and to report thereon, through the Commission, to the Assembly at its seventy-fifth session.