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Agenda item 5

Multidimensional approaches by Governments to promoting the rule of law by, inter alia, providing access to justice for all; building effective, accountable, impartial and inclusive institutions; and considering social, educational and other relevant measures, including fostering a culture of lawfulness while respecting cultural identities, in line with the Doha Declaration

Report of Committee I: workshop 3

Addendum

Education and youth engagement as key to making societies resilient to crime

Proceedings

1. At its 4th to 6th meetings, on 9 and 10 March 2021, Committee I held a workshop on the theme “Education and youth engagement as key to making societies resilient to crime”. The United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute assisted the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in the preparation and organization of the workshop. The Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Working paper prepared by the Secretariat on multidimensional approaches by Governments to promoting the rule of law by, inter alia, providing access to justice for all; building effective, accountable, impartial and inclusive institutions; and considering social, educational and other relevant measures, including fostering a culture of lawfulness while respecting cultural identities, in line with the Doha Declaration ([A/CONF.234/6](#));

(b) Background paper prepared by the Secretariat for the workshop on education and youth engagement as key to making societies resilient to crime ([A/CONF.234/10](#));

(c) Discussion guide for the Fourteenth Congress ([A/CONF.234/PM.1](#));

(d) Reports of the regional preparatory meetings for the Fourteenth Congress ([A/CONF.234/RPM.1/1](#), [A/CONF.234/RPM.2/1](#), [A/CONF.234/RPM.3/1](#), [A/CONF.234/RPM.4/1](#) and [A/CONF.234/RPM.5/1](#));

(e) Report of the Secretary-General on the follow-up to 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 ([A/CONF.234/12](#));



(f) Report of the Executive Director on the rule of law, crime prevention and criminal justice in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals ([A/CONF.234/13](#));

(g) Report of the Secretariat on the outcome of the expert group meeting on integrating sport into youth crime prevention and criminal justice strategies ([A/CONF.234/14](#));

(h) Working paper prepared by the Secretariat on developments regarding crime prevention and criminal justice as a result of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic ([A/CONF.234/15](#)).

2. The workshop was moderated by Gilberto Duarte and Johannes de Haan of UNODC; and Manuela Brunero, Giuseppina Maddaluno and Duccio Mazarese of the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute. Presentations were made by the following panellists: Khaled Emam, Major Group for Children and Youth and Justice Call for Rights and Development; Rahmatullah Hamdard, Hope for Education and Leadership in Afghanistan; Isadora Peixoto, Youth Ambassadors Programme, Brazil; Melissa Deehring, Qatar University College of Law; Victoria Ibiwoye, One African Child Foundation and Sustainable Development Goal Education 2030 Steering Committee, Nigeria; Kairzhan Tokushev, Anti-Corruption Agency of Kazakhstan; A.N. Ramachandra, Ministry of Education of India; Peter Ottens, YETS Foundation; Gabriela Pinheiro, Fight for Peace; Ramón Spaaij, College of Sport and Exercise Science, Victoria University, Australia; Gillian Trinidad, Child Pose Yoga Project Philippines; and Sebastián Suito, Laboratorio de Investigación Deportiva (LidLab).

3. The 4th, 5th and 6th meetings were chaired by Jose Antonio Marcondes de Carvalho (Brazil). In each of the meetings, introductory remarks were made by representatives of the Secretariat and of the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute.

4. At the 4th meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the United States of America, Morocco and Spain.

5. At the 5th meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the Philippines and Italy.

6. At the 6th meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Honduras and Guatemala.

Chair's summary

7. The first panel discussion was focused on youth engagement. The first panellist shared best practices relating to youth initiatives on the Sustainable Development Goals and their implementation through partnerships among youth-led organizations worldwide. The speaker recommended priority actions for Member States to ensure young people's meaningful participation in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and achieving Goal 16. In addition, the panellist noted the need for youth to feel part of a worldwide effort. The second panellist illustrated the experience of Hope for Education and Leadership in Afghanistan in promoting the rule of law and empowering youth in conflict areas through Model United Nations conferences. The third panellist emphasized the importance of youth participation in localizing the Sustainable Development Goals and implementing specific actions through a simple and easily accessible multi-stakeholder and public-private partnership approach.

8. During the discussion that followed, one speaker mentioned the importance of working with young people to prevent their involvement with gangs. The need for trust-building measures among law enforcement entities, relevant authorities and youth was also mentioned. It was stressed that youth participation should stem from a rights-based approach. Knowledge acquired through education was mentioned as an enabler of youth participation, which in turn contributed to preventing violence and

crime. Speakers highlighted the central role of teacher training and student engagement, including in violence prevention in schools. They also highlighted that youth organizations could help translate principles into specific action. Furthermore, participants noted that the role of youth in advancing the rule of law could be enhanced by greater partnership with the private sector.

9. The second panel discussion was focused on education. The first panellist presented the experience of incorporating the UNODC Education for Justice materials into curricula at Qatar University, with an emphasis on empowerment programmes for female law students. The second panellist presented the experience of the One African Child Foundation as an example of a community-level education support hub aimed at developing sustainable solutions for education to meet the needs of beneficiaries. The third panellist illustrated the experience of the *Sanaly urpaq* project in Kazakhstan, implemented in partnership between education and anti-corruption authorities. The project was aimed at teaching local youth about the pillars of good governance and sustainable development, such as the rule of law, public participation, integrity and transparency. The fourth panellist stressed the importance of strengthening relationships between law enforcement and education experts to empower youth. He made reference to educational approaches in India as an example of the mutually reinforcing relationship between peace, justice, ethics and the 2030 Agenda.

10. During the discussion that followed, one speaker mentioned the importance of meaningfully involving youth and education professionals in the rehabilitation of juvenile offenders. Speakers stressed the need for schools to be open to innovative teaching methods. One speaker mentioned that collaborating with civil society organizations could contribute to reaching local communities and engage them in education and crime prevention. Speakers noted the importance of involving law enforcement and criminal justice officials, as well as civil society, in capacity-building activities aimed at incorporating the rule of law at all levels of education. It was also noted that extracurricular activities contributed to educating youth on the rule of law. Member States lacking rule of law curricula were encouraged to use existing Education for Justice materials and adapt them to their national context. Speakers pointed out that civil society could contribute to providing training to teachers and youth on rule of law issues. They also recognized the importance of teacher-training and capacity-building programmes in strengthening education on the rule of law.

11. The third panel discussion was focused on sport. The first panellist emphasized the role of sport as a socioenvironmental factor having an impact on youth social skills and resilience to crime. He stressed the significant potential of sport as a tool to create meaningful personal connections between youth and a sense of belonging, with sports coaches serving as role models. The second panellist illustrated a five-factor approach to helping youth outside formal education to reach their full potential through sport: (a) developing skills; (b) providing informal learning; (c) increasing employability; (d) providing support; and (e) fostering leadership. The third panellist presented findings on the potential of sport to prevent violent extremism by creating safe spaces, fostering group dynamics and engendering collective identity, including through coaching, mentoring and holistic youth development. The fourth panellist focused on the positive and inclusive effect that sports-based programmes had on the empowerment of women and girls in terms of, for example, self-confidence, leadership, discipline and self-awareness, which were all key to fighting discrimination and gender-based violence, as well as instilling resilience in youth. The fifth panellist presented a case of sport contributing to community and youth resilience in local contexts through the use of Muay Thai and the creation of networks for a larger development agenda. All speakers highlighted the potential of sport to build societal recognition and personal identity and aspirations in youth, as well as social relations and socioemotional skills, and the role of sport in creating a safe and inclusive space in the community. Some speakers mentioned the importance of strengthening partnerships with the private sector to develop and implement sports-based interventions more efficiently.

12. In the discussions that followed, the importance of empowering youth to participate in the promotion of the rule of law, thereby benefiting both societies and youth, was further emphasized. The positive role of networking and experience-sharing environments, such as the Youth Forum of the Fourteenth Congress, in amplifying the voices of youth as agents of change was also highlighted. Some speakers suggested that corporate funding, including in the framework of corporate social responsibility, could be used to implement sports-based programmes for youth. Some speakers observed that public-private partnerships offered strategic opportunities in terms of research and innovation but could pose challenges related to agenda-setting and maintaining a focus on meeting the needs of the beneficiaries.

13. The Chair invited participants to consider the following points raised during the discussions:

(a) Member States are invited to promote the meaningful engagement of youth and youth organizations in crime prevention and criminal justice efforts;

(b) Member States are encouraged to consider promoting youth forums, or similar initiatives, including during the sessions of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, to familiarize young people with policymaking processes related to crime prevention, criminal justice and other aspects of the rule of law;

(c) To undertake a whole-of-society approach to promoting the rule of law, Member States are also encouraged to establish and, where appropriate, increase cooperation between the education sector and governmental authorities responsible for crime prevention and criminal justice, including with the aim of mainstreaming gender and human rights;

(d) Pursuant to target 4.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals and General Assembly resolution [74/172](#), Member States are further encouraged to continue efforts to incorporate the rule of law into education systems, and to make use of the tools developed by the Education for Justice initiative and the expertise of the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute in designing and delivering higher education programmes;

(e) Member States are encouraged to focus on teacher-training and capacity-building programmes, including in the establishment of partnerships between the education and criminal justice sectors;

(f) Partnerships with civil society organizations, the private sector and youth-led organizations, especially in non-formal and informal education, and sports-based programmes for youth, are suggested to Member States as an important practice to increase the reach of rule of law education;

(g) Member States are encouraged to use student-led and peer-to-peer programmes in education and sport to promote youth engagement and crime prevention and to translate principles into specific action;

(h) Pursuant to General Assembly resolution [74/170](#), Member States are also encouraged to integrate sport into youth crime prevention and criminal justice frameworks in the context of the 2030 Agenda and the United Nations Action Plan on Sport for Development and Peace;

(i) Member States are further encouraged to use sport as a tool for youth empowerment and to build individual and community resilience to violence and crime, support healthy development and build peaceful, just and inclusive societies;

(j) Member States and relevant international organizations, including UNODC and the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute, are invited to raise awareness of the social and developmental benefits of sport and sports-based programmes in the context of crime prevention, including by sharing data and good practices on the impact of such programmes;

(k) Member States are encouraged to remain seized of the topics of education and youth engagement, including sport, at the sessions of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.
