



# Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

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## Special events

1. As part of the Fourteenth Congress, UNODC, in cooperation with other stakeholders, organized 13 special events between 7 and 10 March 2021.

## Summary

2. On 7 March 2021, UNODC, in partnership with Qatar, organized a special event entitled “Promoting the rule of law and justice: innovative implementation of the Doha Declaration towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals”. Moderated by the Director of the Division for Treaty Affairs of UNODC, opening statements were made by the President of the General Assembly at its seventy-fifth session, the Executive Director of UNODC, the Minister of Justice of Japan and the Adviser to the Prime Minister and the Minister of the Interior of Qatar, introduced by the Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Qatar to the United Nations (Vienna). Panellists including the Minister of Home Affairs, Immigration, Safety and Security of Namibia and the Minister of Public Education of Uzbekistan, as well as representatives of UNESCO and the Advisory Board of the UNODC Global Judicial Integrity Network and youth representatives, shared the achievements of the Global Programme for the Implementation of the Doha Declaration and its innovative practices in promoting the rule of law, as well as efforts to implement the Doha Declaration at the national, regional and international levels.

3. On 8 March 2021, a special event on women’s empowerment and the advancement of justice was organized in celebration of International Women’s Day. The Minister of Justice of Japan, the State Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan, the Executive Director of UNODC and the Deputy Executive Director of UN-Women made statements. They were followed by a special appearance by Nishikawa Kiyoshi and Helen, a celebrity couple from Japan, who shared their perspectives on marginalization and hardship as causes of crime and harm. The event ended with a panel discussion with the Parliamentary Deputy Minister of Defence of Japan, the President of Sophia University, Japan, the Chief Executive Officer of Accept International and the Director of the Division for Operations of UNODC. They advocated a tolerant society and highlighted the importance of women’s perspectives in promoting change.

4. On the same day, the Division for Policy Analysis and Public Affairs of UNODC organized a special event to mark 10 years since the inception of the United Nations voluntary trust fund for victims of trafficking in persons, especially women and children, and to reflect on achievements and best practices. The special event was chaired by the Chair of the Board of Trustees of the trust fund. An opening statement was made by the Executive Director of UNODC. Statements were made by panellists



from Belgium, France and Sweden and presentations were made by representatives of front-line non-governmental organizations from Ghana and India.

5. Also on the same day, the Corruption and Economic Crime Branch, the Global Programme for Combating Wildlife and Forest Crime and the Research and Trend Analysis Branch of UNODC organized a special event on addressing corruption linked to wildlife, forest and fisheries crime. The Executive Director of UNODC provided welcome remarks. The opening statement, delivered by the Chair of United for Wildlife, was followed by a discussion moderated by Princess Laurentien of the Netherlands, with panellists from Angola, Kenya and the Virunga National Park in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Subsequently, representatives of the Governments of Belgium, France, Kenya, Palau, Peru and the United States and representatives of two civil society organizations, the Wildlife Justice Commission and the World Wide Fund for Nature, reiterated the importance of addressing corruption to prevent wildlife, forest and fisheries crime. Closing remarks were provided by Jane Goodall.

6. Also on 8 March 2021, UNODC organized a special event on the gender dimensions of criminal justice responses to terrorism. The panel leading the discussion comprised the Executive Director of UNODC, the Minister of Justice of Nigeria, the Counter-Terrorism Coordinator of Sweden, the Chairperson of the Senate Committee on Women and Gender Equality of Uzbekistan, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict and the Director of the Women Empowerment Organization and Coordinator of the Iraq Cross Sector Task Force on implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) and was moderated by the Chief of the Terrorism Prevention Branch of UNODC. The panellists discussed trends regarding women's participation in terrorist groups, efforts to prosecute terrorists responsible for sexual and gender-based violence, approaches for adopting gender-sensitive measures to prevent terrorism and violent extremism, and the importance of increasing the role of women in those efforts.

7. On 9 March 2021, UNODC organized a special event on urban safety governance to discuss inclusive, multisectoral approaches and strategies to improve the safety and governance of cities. The special event was moderated by the Director of the Division for Policy Analysis and Public Affairs. An opening statement was made by the Executive Director of UNODC. Presentations were made by local and national government officials from Oakland, United States, Mexico City, Nairobi and Tashkent. A presentation was also made by the United Nations Resident Coordinator for Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean. Statements were made by the Assistant Vice-Minister of Justice of Japan and the Executive Director of UN-Habitat. The panellists stated that an urban safety governance approach was crucial to strengthening multi-level urban resilience and community safety.

8. On the same day, the Global Programme for Strengthening the Capacities of Member States to Prevent and Combat Organized and Serious Crime organized a special event on the launch of the South-East Asia Justice Network and promotion of international cooperation in criminal matters through judicial cooperation networks. The special event was chaired by a representative of UNODC and moderated by the Director General of the International Affairs Department of the Office of the Attorney General of Thailand. An opening statement was made by the Executive Director of UNODC. Presentations were made by the Prosecutor General of Egypt, representing the Africa Prosecutors Association, the Prosecutor General of Spain, representing the Ibero-American Association of Public Prosecutors, the Secretary of the European Judicial Network, the Secretary-General of the Ibero-American Network for International Legal Cooperation, the Deputy Attorneys General of Singapore and Thailand, the Secretary of Justice of the Philippines and senior government representatives from the Gambia, Ghana and Kyrgyzstan.

9. Also on the same day, UNODC, in partnership with the Public Defence Service of Argentina, UNDP, UN-Women, the International Development Law Organization, the Pathfinders for Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies and the International

Association of Lawyers, organized a special event on equal access to justice for all. The event was moderated by the Chief of the Justice Section of the Division for Operations and an opening statement was made by the Executive Director of UNODC. High-level representatives and experts from Member States in Europe, Africa, Latin America, the Caribbean and Asia, the Chair of the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent and a representative of an international organization discussed challenges and shared good practices by Governments and practitioners to ensure equal access to justice without discrimination for those suspected or accused of committing a crime and for victims of crime, including when addressing the impact of COVID-19, with a focus on groups with specific rights and needs.

10. Also on 9 March 2021, UNODC and INTERPOL organized a special event on rethinking responses to crime and harm perpetrated by and against young people and how to engage citizens to promote peace and development. Co-hosted by the Director of the Division for Operations and the Executive Director of Police Services of INTERPOL, the opening keynote address was delivered by Nobel Peace Prize laureate Kailash Satyarthi. In a panel discussion, the eSafety Commissioner of Australia, the United Nations Resident Coordinator for China, the Executive Director of the Wahid Foundation, a professor from Aoyama Gakuin University, Japan, and the Chief Executive Officer of Accept International discussed the need to introduce fresh thinking to transform traditional ways of responding to crime and harm perpetrated by and against young people. Panellists exchanged views on the need to foster more effective cooperation between the public and private sectors to achieve synergistic responses to crime and harm through a “spectrum” approach of interventions.

11. A special event entitled “The impact of COVID-19 in prisons: mitigating risks and building back better”, organized in coordination with the Vienna-based Group of Friends of the Nelson Mandela Rules, was held on 10 March 2021. The event was opened by the Director of the Division for Operations, who delivered a statement on behalf of the Executive Director of UNODC. Keynote statements were made by the Minister of Law and Human Rights of Indonesia, the Deputy Minister of Correctional Services of South Africa, the Director-General of the Correction Bureau of Japan, the President of the International Corrections and Prisons Association and the Head of the Detention Unit of the International Committee of the Red Cross. Speakers reiterated their concern about the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on those living and working in prisons and agreed that the pandemic had brought chronic and long-standing prison deficiencies into the spotlight. Renewed efforts to strengthen compliance with international minimum prison standards while addressing the root causes of over-incarceration and overcrowding were highlighted as priorities for future reform strategies.

12. On 10 March 2021, UNODC organized a special event on safeguarding sport from corruption and crime, aimed at raising awareness about the threats posed by corruption and crime to sport, as well as highlighting and proposing initiatives on how to overcome them. Moderated by the Chief of the Corruption and Economic Crime Branch of UNODC, the event included statements by the Executive Director of UNODC, high-level representatives of Australia, Italy, Qatar and the Russian Federation and the Presidents of the International Olympic Committee and the Fédération Internationale de Football Association.

13. On the same day, UNODC, together with the Governments of Austria, Indonesia and Japan and the European Union, sponsored a special event on the UNODC road map on the treatment of children associated with terrorist and violent extremist groups. An opening statement was made by the Director of the Division for Operations. Presentations were made by the Ambassador in charge of International Cooperation for Countering Terrorism and International Organized Crime of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, the Head of the Service for Foreign Policy Instruments of the European Commission, the Deputy Head of International Cooperation of the National Counter-Terrorism Agency of Indonesia, the President of the Supreme Judicial Council and Chief of the Federal Court of Cassation of Iraq, the Coordinator of the Counter-Terrorism Centre of the Office of the National Security

Adviser of Nigeria, the Head of the Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism Unit in the Counter-Terrorism Centre of the Office of the National Security Adviser of Nigeria and the Ambassador-at-Large of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan.

14. Also on 10 March 2021, the Strategic Planning and Inter-Agency Affairs Unit of UNODC organized a special event entitled “Youth and the rule of law: effective agents of change”. The event focused on the engagement of youth in policy discussions on crime prevention, criminal justice and the rule of law. The event was moderated by a UNODC Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Officer. An opening statement was made by the Executive Secretary of the Fourteenth Congress. The Envoy of the Secretary-General on Youth also made introductory remarks. Presentations were given by parliamentarians from Brazil, Japan and Kenya and youth representatives from MUN Impact and the Japanese Youth Forum. Participants stressed the importance of providing a regular forum for youth to engage in global policy discussions on strengthening the rule of law.

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