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Western Asia Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

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Draft report

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Addendum

II. Conclusions and recommendations

1. The Secretary of the Western Asia Regional Preparatory Meeting recalled that the main theme, agenda items and workshops of the Fourteenth Congress had been carefully identified by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and adopted by the General Assembly. In that regard, she highlighted that, building on the success of the Thirteenth Congress and in accordance with General Assembly resolution [71/206](#), all efforts had been made to ensure that the overall theme, the agenda items and workshop topics were streamlined. She reminded participants that, since the main theme was designed to serve as an umbrella for the substantive agenda items and workshop topics and for the discussions under those that would take place at the Congress, they were invited to engage in a general, aspirational discussion with regard to the relationship between the main theme and the substantive agenda items of the Congress, as well as the policy implications of that relationship. She explained that, in order to facilitate the preparations for and discussions at the regional preparatory meetings and the Congress itself, the discussion guide had clustered the agenda items that dealt with issues of broad and global importance together with the relevant workshop topics, on the understanding that the latter were designed to cover more specific topics and draw on practical experiences and approaches.
2. Presentations were delivered by representatives of the Secretariat introducing the main theme, substantive agenda items and workshop topics.
3. Stemming from the meeting, the following summary of deliberations was prepared and recommendations were identified, which were not negotiated by the participants.



A. Main theme of the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice: “Advancing crime prevention, criminal justice and the rule of law: towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda”

Summary of deliberations

4. The meeting emphasized the mutually reinforcing relation between the rule of law, crime prevention and criminal justice and sustainable development, which is manifested in the interrelationship between Goal 16 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Agenda and the other relevant Goals and Targets. In this connection, participants reported on their national and international efforts in the area of crime prevention and criminal justice, which in turn also supported the implementation of the entire dimension of the Agenda.

5. In observing the entwined nature of the Sustainable Development Agenda, it was noted that there can be no development without laws that protect society from all forms of crime and violence. It was also mentioned that in order to prevent crime there was an imminent need to reinforce international cooperation and partnerships to be able to implement the Agenda in a holistic and multidimensional manner.

6. The meeting also welcomed the overall theme of the Fourteenth Crime Congress and its unique timing, building on the overall theme of the Doha Declaration adopted at the Thirteenth Congress. In this regard, it was mentioned that the Thirteenth Congress had allowed for an in-depth dialogue that has now to be continued on the importance of the rule of law for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Agenda.

7. It was also emphasized that the overall theme of the Fourteenth Congress was essential in highlighting the importance of building effective crime prevention and criminal justice systems, that were robust and respectful of the rule of law and human rights.

Outcome of deliberations

8. The following recommendations, which were not negotiated by the participants, were identified:

(a) Consider the importance of ensuring that the future Kyoto Declaration has a robust overarching political message that reflects, among others, the commitments of the international community towards the implementation of the Sustainable Development Agenda. The meeting also recommended that the future Kyoto Declaration should be applicable and able to be implemented and should accommodate the different needs of Member States in a way that does not contradict with their principles and beliefs. It should also reflect the challenges, priorities and needs of developing countries and, in accordance with the principles of common responsibility of States promote human development programmes;

(b) Invest in the training of crime prevention and criminal justice practitioners through enhancing their capacities and knowledge to perform their functions and duties efficiently to exchange of information and expertise among such practitioners, and also to promote international cooperation, noting in this regard that these are key elements for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Agenda;

(c) Complement traditional rule of law approaches, with comprehensive ones that focused on people, particularly children and youth to foster trust and respect among the general public towards the law and its enforcement thereby fostering a culture of lawfulness;

(d) Emphasize the importance of promoting public-private partnerships in crime prevention efforts and undertaking multi-stakeholder approaches that cover a broad range of domestic actions such as: education, health and social welfare sectors;

(e) Strengthen the role of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice to continue to act as the main policymaking body in the area of crime prevention and criminal justice that provides a dialogue forum for practitioners and other stakeholders to advance international cooperation in criminal matters and the building of partnerships.

B. Substantive items and workshops

1. Comprehensive strategies for crime prevention towards social and economic development (agenda item 3); and evidence-based crime prevention: statistics, indicators and evaluation in support of successful practices (workshop 1)

Summary of deliberations

9. It was recognized that multi-faceted crime prevention strategies were of key importance to prevent crime and violence, and to implement the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda. In this regard, the meeting emphasized that training and capacity-building for practitioners, including prosecutors, police officers and probation and correction officers was essential to ensure enhanced coordination and cooperation among these practitioners, including at the regional level.

10. Preventing the involvement of children and youth in crime and building their resilience, as well as the utilization of educational, social and health measures, as well as sports initiatives to advance crime prevention efforts were issues thoroughly discussed by the participants at the meeting. In this regard, the importance of investing in strategies aimed at preventing the exploitation of children for the purpose of trafficking or for terrorism was underscored.

11. The meeting also discussed the importance of multidimensional actions and interventions that brings together the family, child protection agencies, practitioners, health and education specialists to ensure a child-centred approach to crime prevention and criminal justice efforts.

12. The meeting noted the need for holistic crime prevention approaches in which family, community and school-based interventions were incorporated.

13. The meeting also stressed the importance of the economic empowerment of youth, including through the creation of job opportunities, thereby encouraging youth to assume a leadership role in initiating and implementing various innovative programmes and activities. The importance of public-private partnerships was stressed in this regard.

14. It was noted that crime prevention efforts can't be successful without involving society at large, and without working with youth with the view to empower them as agents of positive change which in turn enhances public confidence in and cooperation with law enforcement thus fostering a culture of lawfulness.

15. In noting the importance of community-based policing, the meeting underlined that a new model that is based on shifting from a "police force" to a "police service" approach was needed.

16. The meeting underscored the importance of giving consideration to the special needs of women and girls in crime prevention programmes and interventions.

17. The importance of evidence-based crime prevention, including by strengthening data collection, was emphasized. It was noted that data collection should be in accordance with the requirements of domestic legislation to ensure proper implementation.

Outcome of deliberations

18. The following recommendations, which were not negotiated by the participants, were identified:

(a) Integrate crime prevention into all relevant social and economic policies and programmes, in particular those affecting young people, with a special emphasis on programmes focused on increasing educational, recreational and employment opportunities for young people;

(b) Ensure the full protection of children and the promotion of their rights, and provide technical support to practitioners, law enforcement and judges through comprehensive crime prevention strategies that are evidence-based and built on good practices and experiences;

(c) Strengthen community-based crime prevention and social cohesion, including through the development of coordination mechanisms at the local level that encourage the active participation of civil society organizations, educational institutions, law enforcement authorities, health professionals, urban planners, and social workers;

(d) Promote effective community and action-oriented policing practices aligned with international standards and norms with a view to strengthening trust between citizens and the police and enhancing comprehensive crime prevention efforts;

(e) Develop inter-agency cooperation mechanisms to establish effective and comprehensive national crime prevention strategies involving all relevant sectors in society (education, community, policing, prosecution and judiciary, etc.), both at state and local levels, based on sociological and criminological researches; in doing so, increase crime prevention efforts to reduce crime and violence, and promote a human-rights based approach to crime prevention, with a particular focus on young people;

(f) Include in crime prevention policies and strategies the promotion of the rule of law, inter alia, youth education and awareness raising efforts that fosters a culture of lawfulness;

(g) Promote crime prevention approaches that include social and economic development, such as parenting skills and life skills for young people, community-based prevention through the active engagement of community stakeholders, reducing opportunities for crime through environmental design and providing information to potential victims, and the prevention of recidivism through social reintegration programmes for offenders in prison and community settings;

(h) Prevent and devise responses to the recruitment, exploitation and victimization of children by criminal groups, including organized crime and violent extremist and terrorist groups; in doing so, take into account the different realities and experiences of young people and address the risk factors and their needs;

(i) Support UNODC in continuing its key role in providing its expertise and technical assistance to Member States in the area of crime prevention through the various ongoing Global Programmes including the Global Programme on the Implementation of the Doha Declaration, and other relevant Programmes on community-based policing and on alternative development and sustainable livelihood;

(j) Increase efforts to collect and share knowledge and data on crime and criminal justice systems to support evidence-based policies in relation to preventing and reducing crime and violence, as well as improving access to justice and fighting corruption;

(k) Share available data and information on relevant crime and criminal justice issues, improve coordination in data-related activities and avoid duplication of initiatives aimed at data collection;

(l) Map existing needs and develop joint research initiatives to increase the understanding on crime prevention and criminal justice systems.

(m) Support countries to increase their capacity to collect, produce and share data, including through the implementation of new methodologies to measure the hidden part of crime, implementation of International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes (ICCS), and the implementation of victimization surveys as well as corruption surveys.
