



# General Assembly

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

Beirut, 26–28 March 2019

### Draft report

*Rapporteur:* Abdullah F. Al- Ansary (Saudi Arabia)

### Addendum

## II. Conclusions and recommendations (*continued*)

### B. Substantive items and workshops

#### 2. Integrated approaches to challenges facing the criminal justice system (agenda item 4); and reducing reoffending: identifying risks and developing solutions (workshop 2)

##### Summary of deliberations

1. The meeting noted the importance of addressing the rights and needs of the victims of all forms of crime, including cross-border cases and cases involving young people and women. A number of participants provided information on their national efforts in reparation and restitution of victims, such as through the establishment of trust funds for the victims. The importance of securing access to justice was also highlighted.

2. It was stressed that comprehensive and balanced approaches were needed to develop policies for the treatment of offenders. Participants noted that, in addition to the nature and gravity of the offence, the individual background of offenders, such as disability, gender, age, education level and cultural background, should be taken into account to ensure that programmes were tailored to their needs. In this regard, information on national efforts, both of legislative and programmatic nature, addressing child and youth offenders, such as through education and vocational training, were shared.

3. The importance of gathering statistics and conducting surveys on the operation of prisons and on the rehabilitation of former offenders was mentioned, in developing prison reform with a view to ensure reintegration of the prisoners after they have served their sentence.

4. Good practices and experiences regarding alternatives to imprisonment were shared by a number of participants. In order to address prison overcrowding, the use



and implementation of the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for Non-custodial Measures (the Tokyo Rules) was recognized as a useful and important tool.

5. The need for capacity-building to probation services, which have a fundamental role in providing continued support to offenders in the community, in coordination with other relevant governmental and non-governmental entities, was noted.

6. In ensuring the reintegration of former offenders into society, the role and support of the community was noted as a key element, including peer-to-peer support and the engagement of youth. In this regard, cooperation between government agencies at all levels and cooperation with the private sector, such as ensuring employment opportunities, was emphasized. It was also acknowledged that public understanding and community cooperation are key elements to offender rehabilitation and reintegration into society. The need to conduct comprehensive awareness-raising activities that addresses various target groups, involving the Internet and social media for the widest possible dissemination of information and interactive communications, was noted in this regard.

7. The development of work-related programmes and brands of prison products were mentioned as means to generate income for prisoners and their families, to increase prisoners' employability upon release and more generally to promote a positive image of prisoners within the society.

8. National efforts to counter corruption were reported, and participants highlighted the technical assistance provided by the United Nations and United Nations Programme Network of Institutes to address these challenges.

#### **Outcome of deliberations**

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

(a) Consider reforming laws, policies and practices to ensure that the rights and the needs of victims of all types of crimes are respected, including efforts to establish victim compensation and reparation programmes and funds, and ensure that victims are protected against stigmatization and discrimination, and are protected as whistle-blowers when they are reporting crime;

(b) Establish or strengthen juvenile systems that are fair and child-sensitive;

(c) Invest in the promotion of the practical application of the revised United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules), thereby relying on the technical guidance material and advisory services offered by UNODC;

(d) Develop prison-based rehabilitation programmes aimed at increasing prisoners' skills, promoting prison brands, and focusing, inter alia, on education, vocational training and work opportunities, to ensure their successful reintegration into society and reduce reoffending;

(e) Allocate adequate resources to explore cost-effective use of information technology for the sharing of experiences and good practices to reduce recidivism to reintegrate offenders into society;

(f) Explore practical measures to strengthen inter-agency cooperation and public-private partnership at the national, regional and local levels, in the effort to reintegrate former offenders into society, such as through supporting employment of former offenders and thereby involving youth in the reintegration of youth offenders into the community;

(g) Request UNODC to continue its efforts to provide technical assistance to Member States, upon request, to strengthen accountability and efficiency within the criminal justice system, in particular through its Global Judicial Integrity Network.