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## Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

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### Report of the Latin American and Caribbean Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, held in Santiago from 5 to 7 February 2019

#### Contents

	<i>Page</i>
I. Introduction . . . . .	2
II. Conclusions and recommendations . . . . .	2
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” . . . . .	3
B. Substantive items and workshops . . . . .	5
C. Other issues . . . . .	18
III. Attendance and organization of work . . . . .	19
A. Date and venue of the Meeting . . . . .	19
B. Attendance . . . . .	19
C. Opening of the Meeting . . . . .	19
D. Election of officers . . . . .	20
E. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work . . . . .	20
F. Other matters . . . . .	21
IV. Adoption of the report and closure of the Meeting . . . . .	21
Annex	
List of documents . . . . .	22



## I. Introduction

1. In its resolution [56/119](#), on the role, function, periodicity and duration of the United Nations congresses on the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders, the General Assembly decided that each such congress should be preceded by regional preparatory meetings, and also decided to call future congresses United Nations congresses on crime prevention and criminal justice.

2. The Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Lessons Learned from United Nations Congresses on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, at its meeting held in Bangkok from 15 to 18 August 2006, discussed how to incorporate regional concerns and perspectives into the preparation of the congresses. The Group stressed the importance of regional preparatory meetings as a key tool for the congresses and noted that, despite globalization and the increasingly transboundary nature of criminality, different regions of the world continued to have different concerns, which they wanted to see properly reflected in the consideration of various topics by the congresses ([E/CN.15/2007/6](#), para. 23).

3. In its resolution [72/192](#), the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to facilitate the organization of the regional preparatory meetings for the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and to make available the necessary resources for the participation of the least developed countries in those meetings and in the Fourteenth Congress itself, in accordance with past practice and in consultation with Member States. In the same resolution, the Assembly encouraged the relevant United Nations programmes, specialized agencies of the United Nations system and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, as well as other professional organizations, to cooperate with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in the preparations for the Fourteenth Congress.

4. In the same resolution, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General, in cooperation with the institutes of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme network, to prepare a discussion guide for the regional preparatory meetings for the Fourteenth Congress and for the Congress itself in a timely manner; and invited Member States to be actively involved in that process.

5. At its twenty-seventh session, the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice considered the draft discussion guide. In its resolution [73/184](#), the General Assembly took note with appreciation of the draft discussion guide and requested the Secretary-General to finalize it in a timely manner, 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 Fourteenth Congress to be held as early as possible in 2019. The finalized discussion guide ([A/CONF.234/PM.1](#)) was published in September 2018.

6. In its resolution [72/192](#), the General Assembly encouraged Governments to undertake preparations for the Fourteenth Congress at an early stage and by all appropriate means, including, where appropriate, the establishment of national preparatory committees. Also in that resolution, as well as in resolution [73/184](#), the Assembly urged participants in the regional preparatory meetings to examine the substantive items on the agenda and the topics of the workshops of the Fourteenth Congress and to make action-oriented recommendations to serve as a basis for the draft recommendations and conclusions for consideration by the Congress.

## II. Conclusions and recommendations

7. The Secretary of the Latin American and Caribbean 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, he 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, agenda items and workshop topics were streamlined. The Secretary 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. He 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.

8. Presentations were delivered by representatives of the Secretariat introducing the main theme, substantive agenda items and workshop topics.

9. 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**

10. Participants noted that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development represented a collective commitment of the international community and that all Member States should strive to achieve its Goals. It was further stated that the 2030 Agenda was not the first United Nations policy framework document to advance crime prevention and criminal justice priorities and that the outcomes and achievements of the past United Nations crime congresses were instrumental to shape policies and formulate recommendations in this field.

11. Other participants referred to the significance of 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, which was adopted by the Thirteenth Congress prior to the finalization and adoption of the 2030 Agenda, providing an added impetus to include in the Agenda, primarily in Goal 16, recognition of the interrelationship between the rule of law and sustainable development. It was recognized that the Doha Declaration represented a milestone, especially with regard to its focus on partnerships, international cooperation and coordination to foster this interrelationship.

12. Some participants expressed satisfaction that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development established a policy framework for addressing crime prevention and criminal justice challenges within the broader context of promoting sustainable development. In particular, it was stated that violence and criminality were both a cause and consequence of poverty, inequality, insecurity and underdevelopment, and that violence and criminality tended to reduce the quality of life for people worldwide. It was also noted that security was essential for peace and social progress, as envisaged in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

13. It was also noted that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development could be seen as a complementary framework to the ongoing efforts of the international community to address effective crime challenges, including through the international legally binding instruments used as the cornerstone for international cooperation in

criminal matters, such as the United Nations Convention against Corruption, the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto and the three drug control treaties.

14. It was stated that corruption presented a significant challenge to the achievement of all Sustainable Development Goals, including Goal 16. Participants emphasized the interlinkages between corruption, organized crime and other crimes, highlighting how integrated responses and preventive measures should be in place to address these issues. It was also noted that the General Assembly had recently adopted resolution [73/191](#), in which it decided to convene a special session of the Assembly in 2021 to address challenges and measures to prevent corruption and strengthen international cooperation.

15. Participants briefly introduced some national efforts to translate into practice the main theme of the Fourteenth Congress and further referred to good practices to address vulnerabilities that could lead to crime. It was noted that the protection of human rights must be taken into consideration when implementing related measures in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice.

16. Participants were in favour of the future Kyoto declaration having a short and concise text. Questions were raised, however, about how this could be achieved in practice. One participant stated that a possible methodology for further consideration could be the development of a general part that would include declaratory language reflecting policy-oriented commitments of senior government officers of Member States, coupled with an additional document that would include more specific and action-oriented recommendations at the practical level.

17. A number of participants stressed the importance of tangible implementation efforts at the national level to ensure that the commitments to be reflected in the Kyoto declaration would not remain on paper only. In this regard, the issue of making available sufficient financial resources for the effective implementation of strategies and policies in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice was emphasized.

18. The representative of Costa Rica expressed his regret that the Regional Preparatory Meeting was not, in keeping with the established practice, taking place in his country. He referred to the legal and practical factors that had caused delays and resulted in the decision to hold the meeting at the headquarters of the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean. He further expressed his country's commitment to continue supporting the preparations for the Fourteenth Congress, as well as future congresses, and to host future regional preparatory meetings.

### **Outcome of deliberations**

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

(a) Ensure that the Fourteenth Congress issues strong and clear political messages for inclusion in its declaration to address the challenges stemming from its overall theme;

(b) Focus on human resources as a driving force of crime prevention and criminal justice institutions, emphasize the needs of crime prevention and criminal justice practitioners and strengthen international cooperation to foster the exchange of information and good practices;

(c) Enhance collaboration between crime prevention and criminal justice practitioners, civil society and the general public, particularly by exploring innovative and effective ways of public-private partnership and inter-agency cooperation;

(d) Pursue a holistic approach to address crime prevention, criminal justice and the rule of law that includes respect for and promotion of human rights, the promotion of peace and due regard for vulnerable groups, such as indigenous peoples,

people with disabilities, lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons, women, children and senior citizens;

(e) Ensure that adequate and sufficient financial resources are in place to support the work, and enhance the capacities of, practitioners in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice in promoting the rule of law within the broader context of the 2030 Agenda, and ensure that those resources are invested where they can be expected to have the most significant impact;

(f) Consider and emphasize the people-centred aspect of the 2030 Agenda and reflect this approach in crime prevention and criminal justice policies by considering the roles and importance of different stakeholders involved in addressing these issues, such as victims, witnesses, police, prosecutors, defenders and judges, as well as society as a whole;

(g) Strengthen capacity-building, as well as coordination and cooperation, including international legal cooperation, to address crime prevention and criminal justice, while also considering their importance for addressing serious criminal activities such as terrorism, corruption and organized crime, in view of the importance of target 16.a for the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 16 and the 2030 Agenda;

(h) Promote a culture of lawfulness as an approach to foster the general public's trust in and respect for the law and its enforcement;

(i) Consider that Sustainable Development Goal 16 should be seen as the central axis upon which to base efforts related to crime prevention and criminal justice issues within the framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

(j) Consider addressing all forms of corruption (sustainable development target 16.5) as a key to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and implementing crime prevention and criminal justice policies, as well as to the promotion of peaceful, just and inclusive societies;

(k) Consider providing additional opportunity for discussions on national "execution models" and the ways in which different Member States can implement internationally agreed measures in the area of crime prevention and criminal justice.

## **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**

20. The Meeting recognized that practitioners across the entire spectrum of the criminal justice system were the main thrust behind crime prevention and criminal justice initiatives geared towards promoting the rule of law and the accomplishment of the Sustainable Development Goals.

21. A number of participants noted that the Fourteenth Congress should discuss the role of citizens in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice, which included, in particular, fostering a culture of lawfulness, as a Government-led effort to promote the general public's trust in and respect for the law and its enforcement.

22. It was stressed that education and participation in such activities as sports and music, among others, could play an important role in crime prevention by instilling values of social responsibility in citizens, especially children and youth.

23. It was underscored that social and economic inclusion in the local community was a key to preventing crime. Participants highlighted the importance of recognizing social vulnerabilities, gender and aspects of geographical zones as key considerations when designing crime prevention strategies at the national level. Reference was made

to gender-related considerations and vulnerabilities, mostly related to domestic violence and high rates of femicide/feminicide in the region, as well as to environmental factors that could have an impact on crime rates in specific urban settings. The special needs of children were also mentioned, including in conjunction with the evolving threat of bullying. In addition, it was stated that more attention could be devoted to groups of individuals or communities at higher risk and those facing the additional difficulty of limited opportunities for social advancement.

24. Participants underlined that the active participation of citizens through mechanisms to ensure cooperation with law enforcement and criminal justice institutions was pivotal for successful crime prevention activities, especially at the grass-roots level. In this regard, reference was made to community-based policing initiatives and the use of volunteer probation officers as examples of good practices.

25. It was noted that countries may have different needs or priorities at the national and municipal levels requiring specific tailor-made approaches. In this regard, some participants stressed the importance of addressing crime challenges as a sociological phenomenon and in the wider context of promoting sustainable development. They underlined the necessity of developing inclusive and interdisciplinary strategies to involve all relevant stakeholders in that endeavour, as well as ensuring cross-sectoral and inter-agency coordination at both the national and municipal levels.

26. It was also mentioned that the nature of particular forms of crime should be taken into account in developing crime prevention strategies with a multidimensional approach. One participant emphasized the need to address challenges posed by gangs and urban crime, as well as bias-motivated crimes and new patterns and trends in the field of drug trafficking.

27. A number of participants reported on national efforts, including in collaboration with UNODC through various regional and global programmes, to implement effective crime prevention measures and put in place effective management and monitoring mechanisms to gather reliable statistics on crime and justice and analyse related threats. In this connection, the availability of such statistics, based on research on and analysis of factors that could prevent reoffending, were identified as substantial elements for developing coherent and efficient crime prevention policies. It was noted that statistics needed to be structured and compiled in accordance with the legal framework of each Member State.

### **Outcome of deliberations**

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

(a) Develop comprehensive crime prevention policies, strategies and action plans at both the national and local levels, bearing in mind the multiple and multidimensional factors that could be conducive to crime and addressing such factors in a holistic manner, in close cooperation with all stakeholders, including local communities, the development and welfare sectors and other elements of civil society;

(b) Consider crime prevention policies and ensure that local challenges and specificities are strategically addressed when formulating and implementing relevant measures to enhance cooperation at both the international and regional levels;

(c) Focus crime prevention strategies and activities on root causes, vulnerabilities and risk factors, especially in relation to youth;

(d) In order to ensure comprehensive approaches, include in crime prevention policies or strategies measures to promote the rule of law, including youth education and awareness-raising measures that contribute to fostering a culture of lawfulness;

(e) Consistently gather and use reliable statistics on crime and justice to develop effective evidence-based crime prevention strategies and, in doing so, use in a systematic and coherent manner harmonized criteria for the collection of such statistics at the local, national and regional levels, where appropriate;

(f) Support UNODC in its efforts to collect and analyse reliable national statistics on crime prevention and criminal justice for the purpose of gaining a better understanding of global crime trends, with due consideration to the diversity of national statistics.

## **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**

29. The Meeting stressed the importance of victim-centred approaches as vehicles to reduce victimization and increase the reporting of crimes. Emphasis was placed on the needs of women and children as particularly vulnerable victims of crime, as well as on national efforts to eliminate violence against them. The need to protect indigenous peoples, in view of their vulnerability, was also stressed.

30. Prison overcrowding and inadequate prison conditions were identified as challenges facing the criminal justice and penitentiary systems in the region that required integrated approaches. It was noted that such integrated approaches ranged from the design of appropriate prison facilities and the improvement of imprisonment conditions to the adoption and implementation of alternatives to imprisonment, and from measures to facilitate the rehabilitation and social reintegration of offenders upon release to inter-agency coordination among competent authorities.

31. Some participants noted the negative consequences of custodial measures for youth and referred, in particular, to the decisive impact that detention conditions could have on recidivism. The special needs of women prisoners, and especially imprisoned pregnant women and mothers of children less than 12 years old, were noted. Reference was made to the United Nations standards and norms in this field, particularly the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the “Nelson Mandela Rules”) and the United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders (the Bangkok Rules).

32. Many participants emphasized that further efforts should be undertaken to use alternatives to imprisonment, bearing in mind the need to protect public security through such measures as electronic monitoring systems, and taking into account the need to reduce overcrowding in prisons.

33. Rehabilitating offenders through the use of non-custodial measures, as well as through efforts to reduce pretrial or preventive detention and establish specialized mechanisms or procedures to deal with drug offenders or perpetrators of violence against women and domestic violence, was presented as a good practice. Reference was made to the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for Non-custodial Measures (the Tokyo Rules). One participant referred to therapeutic justice as a concept and system allowing the integration of criminal justice law and mental health law, as well as humane sentencing strategies that would allow for treatment in lieu of incarceration, especially for drug-addicted offenders.

34. Many participants highlighted the potential and added value of restorative justice programmes and shared their experiences, informing the Meeting of the benefits and advantages of those programmes, especially within the juvenile justice system. It was recalled that the Doha Declaration contained recommendations to avoid the excessive use of pretrial detention and encouraged, for example, the use of restorative justice in criminal justice matters. One participant noted that research using surveys of victims indicated a high level of satisfaction with the restorative justice programme. Another participant referred to the Ibero-American Declaration on Restorative Juvenile Justice, adopted by the Conference of Ministers of Justice of Ibero-American Countries (COMJIB), an international organization bringing together the ministries of justice of 21 countries of Latin America and the Iberian peninsula.

35. The meeting discussed effective measures to prevent reoffending. Participants stressed that proper identification and assessment of risks and needs of individual offenders, coupled with tailor-made rehabilitation and social reintegration plans, should be accorded high priority in national efforts to prevent reoffending. It was noted that the personal history of the offender, including education, mental condition, family environment and social relationships, should be examined in this regard.

36. Participants expressed concern at the persisting stigma faced by former prisoners, which hindered efforts to reintegrate them into society. In particular, it was stated that governments and the private sector had a key role to play in reducing and eliminating stereotypes and stigmatization, as well as increasing the availability of employment for former prisoners as a means of reducing reoffending and facilitating their reintegration into society in an effective manner. Successful practices were reported, such as the provision of education and vocational training and measures to strengthen family bonds.

37. The meeting stressed that inter-agency cooperation and public-private partnerships played a crucial role in efforts to address reoffending. Many participants referred to such measures as timely job placement and housing after release, smooth access to social and medical services for handicapped or senior ex-offenders, and provision of educational opportunities to youth offenders, underlining their positive impact on successful social reintegration.

38. The meeting recognized the usefulness of a number of successful practices, including the practice of cooperative employers who actively hired ex-offenders; the use of volunteer probation officers to mentor ex-offenders along with government probation officers; and the engagement of youths to support young offenders with peer-to-peer perspectives.

39. Corruption was identified as a major challenge in the criminal justice system, and the importance of the constant training of criminal justice officers was highlighted. The use of service delivery statistics and internal inspection bodies to ensure accountability was mentioned as a good practice.

### **Outcome of deliberations**

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

(a) Promote victim-centred approaches by, inter alia, enhancing the collaboration of national authorities with organizations supporting victims, through concrete government interventions;

(b) Invest in capacity-building for criminal justice practitioners, social workers and other relevant stakeholders to promote joint and collaborative work among them with a view to effectively addressing challenges that criminal justice authorities face;

(c) Facilitate the exchange of best practices on how to pursue an integrated approach to criminal justice at the domestic level, including by fostering collaboration with relevant non-governmental entities and promoting information-sharing;

(d) Promote gender-sensitive approaches to criminal justice, including measures to promote the meaningful participation of women in law enforcement and measures to prevent and respond to specific types of crime that disproportionately affect women and girls; and ensure fair, equal, and supportive access to justice for survivors of sexual and gender-based violence;

(e) Develop and implement integrated approaches to eliminate violence against women and girls, with due consideration for coordination among social services and the criminal justice system;

(f) Examine best practices in combating trafficking in persons through a victim-centred approach and consider methods of applying emerging best practices to



protect and assist all victims of crime, with full respect for their human rights and dignity;

(g) Facilitate the active participation of academic and non-governmental experts, including survivors of crime, in the relevant workshops, and other activities of the Fourteenth Congress, and give consideration to encouraging the participation of people and communities most harmed by crime and violence;

(h) Increase efforts to address prison overcrowding, including by implementing alternatives to imprisonment, through, as just one example, criminal justice and legislative reforms to widen the use of non-custodial measures in national legal systems; and strengthen technical capacities to implement non-custodial measures;

(i) Consider best practices for alternatives to incarceration for youth offenders, including evidence-based programmes and initiatives to keep communities safe while reducing recidivism and minimizing disruption to families and livelihoods;

(j) Explore best practices for: (i) coordinating resources from local education and youth service authorities, law enforcement, civil society, community and faith-based organizations, and families, to keep young people who are already in contact with the justice system away from criminal behaviour and prevent reoffending; (ii) managing detained youth within the criminal justice system, whether in pretrial detention or after sentencing; and (iii) providing access to treatment for substance abuse, mental health and emotional disorders in youth detention settings, as well as analysing youth education and skills-based programmes that increase the likelihood of successful reintegration into society;

(k) Foster the development and implementation of restorative justice programmes within juvenile justice systems, especially when children in conflict with the law and child victims are involved;

(l) Strengthen prisoner rehabilitation programmes, including partnerships with the private sector, to increase employment opportunities for prisoners and education within prisons as a means of reducing reoffending, especially in relation to young offenders;

(m) Facilitate the sharing of evidence-based practices for preventing youth and adults from re-entering the criminal justice system, or from entering it for the first time, as well as for facilitating whole-of-government approaches to reducing recidivism;

(n) Consider targeted approaches to prevent youth recruitment into and involvement in gangs and to rehabilitate and reintegrate former gang members as constructive members of society;

(o) Foster collaboration among competent authorities and explore practical measures to enhance inter-agency cooperation, public-private partnerships, research data and information-sharing strategies with a view to achieving better results in enabling the reintegration of ex-offenders into society;

(p) Develop measures to foster, in association with governments, the active participation of citizens and the support of local communities in assisting ex-offenders, including successful practices such as volunteer probation officers along with government probation officers, hiring of ex-offenders by the business sector and youth involvement in the reintegration of youth offenders;

(q) Explore, when designing rehabilitation and social reintegration plans for each offender and in an effort to prevent reoffending, best practices to assess the risks and needs of each individual offender, including his or her personal history, mental condition, family environment and social relationships;

(r) Recognize the importance of constructive, musical, artistic and other cultural and social activities in prisons within strategies to promote the rehabilitation and social reintegration of former prisoners.

3. **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 (agenda item 5); and education and youth engagement as key to making societies resilient to crime (workshop 3)**

**Summary of deliberations**

41. The Meeting highlighted the importance of addressing the multiple causes of crime as particularly experienced in the region. It was stated that violence and crime were an impediment to the enjoyment of rights and, conversely, that a lack of enjoyment of rights led to violence and crime. Participants highlighted commitments under the Doha Declaration relating to access to justice and ways to address the multiple causes of crime. Furthermore, it was noted that the multiple causes of crime, including social vulnerabilities, required multidimensional approaches to promote the rule of law at the national and international levels. In particular, it was underscored that such approaches should involve public service-oriented institutions operating across the legal, social and economic sectors of society, while also including partnerships with a variety of stakeholders, such as the private sector and other elements of civil society and the community, to address the interlinkages between crime, violence and economic and social development.

42. As it had also done when discussing the main theme of the Fourteenth Congress, the Meeting agreed that the Fourteenth Congress was a platform for discussing approaches taken by governments towards the general public that could contribute to fostering a culture of lawfulness in the context of promoting the rule of law. In this regard, it was noted that building the capacity of criminal justice institutions contributed to galvanizing the public's trust in and respect for the law and its enforcement and could therefore be an important measure for fostering a culture of lawfulness.

43. A number of participants noted that the notion of a culture of lawfulness was not new and was found, for example, in the Guidelines for the Prevention of Crime,<sup>1</sup> though it was still an evolving concept. It was underlined that the notion of a culture of lawfulness provided new perspectives from which to seek the engagement of the general public in promoting the rule of law, while also allowing States to move beyond traditional technical assistance and engage the public to ensure that the rule of law prevailed, which could, in turn, further strengthen people's trust in public institutions.

44. A number of participants highlighted that the conference room paper on a culture of lawfulness submitted by the institutes of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme network (A/CONF.234/RPM.1/CRP.1) could provide valuable background for that concept. It was suggested that the conference room paper be updated to reflect the findings and feedback of the Regional Preparatory Meeting for Asia and Pacific and then be circulated, as amended, as useful reference material for the other regional preparatory meetings.

45. It was further stated that promoting a culture of lawfulness should also be considered within the scope of public-private partnerships to harness the potential of the private sector to promote the rule of law at the local level.

46. A number of participants recalled that a number of internationally binding and non-binding instruments called upon States to ensure access to justice and legal aid. Examples of such instruments included, apart from the Doha Declaration, adopted by the Thirteenth Congress, article 14 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, as well as general comment No. 32 of the Human Rights Committee<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Economic and Social Council resolution 2002/13, annex.

<sup>2</sup> [CCPR/C/GC/32](#).

and the United Nations Principles and Guidelines on Access to Legal Aid in Criminal Justice Systems.<sup>3</sup> In addition, the meeting noted that ensuring access to justice could contribute to the credibility of the criminal justice system as a whole.

47. A number of participants pointed to the institutional challenges that posed an obstacle to ensuring access to justice, such as the abuse of pretrial detention and the significant backlog and lack of efficiency of criminal justice systems, which were also responsible for the high rates of pretrial detainees. It was also noted that the provision of legal aid could prevent abuse of pretrial detention and foster access to, and use of, alternatives to imprisonment, where appropriate. A number of participants addressed the issue of access to justice for vulnerable groups, such as pregnant women, and the impact that the lack of legal aid services could have on vulnerable groups and their families. It was further noted that factors such as geography, literacy, culture and language, as well as the digital gap within States, were also an impediment to providing equitable access to justice.

48. It was stated that ensuring access to justice was also hindered by barriers in the field of international cooperation. This challenge had become more acute, especially in the light of intense migration flows and the influx of migrant populations into different States, and the fact that migrants faced particular vulnerabilities, such as language barriers. It was further noted that existing international cooperation mechanisms such as the transfer of sentenced persons could also be considered within the scope of ensuring access to justice. Another suggestion was to adopt measures and procedures within central and other competent authorities dealing with international cooperation to allow for more effective action in the field of provision of legal aid at the international level.

49. A number of participants noted that in dealing with the issue of access to justice, the possibility of promoting restorative justice measures should be considered, in addition to traditional criminal justice responses, as well as intercultural approaches with regard to indigenous people and their contact with justice.

50. Participants stated that corruption presented major challenges to promoting justice and the rule of law. It was noted that ensuring effective and accountable institutions, as well as increasing transparency and access to information, was central to eliminating corruption in all its forms, in line with sustainable development targets 16.5 and 16.6, and that the general public should take part in those efforts.

51. A number of participants addressed, in particular, the need to prevent corruption in criminal justice institutions and ensure that they were accountable and transparent. It was also noted that cooperation and intersectoral coordination among institutions working on crime prevention and criminal justice could be beneficial in terms of transparency and accountability. Furthermore, the impartiality and independence of criminal justice institutions, such as prosecution services, were key prerequisites for the promotion of the general public's trust.

52. Efforts to allow the general public to have access to information and report wrongdoing – particularly using new technologies – within the public sector were highlighted as effective measures that also increased trust in public institutions while promoting their accountability and transparency.

53. The meeting highlighted the importance of educating youth on crime prevention, criminal justice and other rule of law aspects, starting from an early age and on through to tertiary education. It was especially noted that encouraging a wider understanding of these issues among youth could foster their positive engagement in society, as well as a culture of lawfulness. Participants also noted the relationship between education and other topics on the agenda of the Fourteenth Congress. For example, agenda item 5 could also be approached through the lens of education on the rule of law, as that sort of education could foster equitable access to justice.

<sup>3</sup> General Assembly resolution [67/187](#), annex.

54. It was underlined that education on integrity and on the prevention of corruption was a cross-cutting issue and was key to promoting a culture of lawfulness and addressing the crime-related challenges of countries in the region. Furthermore, it was stated that due consideration must be given to the need to undertake education for prisoners and children in conflict with the law within the juvenile justice system. In addition, the need for quality education and consideration of Sustainable Development Goal 4 was highlighted.

55. The promotion of youth crime prevention through sports and the development of music programmes, especially youth symphony orchestras and similar approaches, was reported and praised. Those were effective social measures to foster a culture of lawfulness. Youth participation was also stated to be key to promoting the rule of law and fostering a culture of lawfulness.

56. The host country of the Fourteenth Crime Congress announced its intention to organize a youth forum and introduced the topics to be discussed: (a) youth engagement in crime prevention and reintegration; (b) youth education for fostering a culture of lawfulness; and (c) youth commitment towards a safe information society. It was acknowledged that such initiatives to involve youth in the Crime Congresses would be a promising approach to foster a culture of lawfulness through youth education and empowerment in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice.

57. Building and expanding on the discussion guide for the Fourteenth Congress, the meeting offered a very important contribution by adding one more area of relevance to the subject of the role and impact of technology on crime prevention and criminal justice issues: participants not only discussed the role of technology under workshop topic 4 of the Fourteenth Congress, but also highlighted the important role that information technology could play in promoting a culture of lawfulness and the rule of law. Participants noted that technology could promote more equitable access to justice, as well as ensure the accountability and transparency of institutions by providing the general public with access to information and allowing citizens to report wrongdoing. It was stated that the Organization of American States, through its Meeting of Ministers of Justice, or of Other Ministers or Attorneys General of the Americas, had recently issued recommendations on widening the use of technology as a means by which to advance the administration of justice, including access to justice. It was further noted that technology could provide an opportunity to educate youth on topics related to crime prevention, criminal justice and other rule of law aspects.

58. Participants noted the importance of the establishment of the Global Programme for the Implementation of the Doha Declaration and the work of UNODC under that Programme, and how they related to agenda item 5 and workshop 3 of the Fourteenth Congress. It was noted that the Global Programme had created the Global Judicial Integrity Network to promote integrity within the judiciary. In addition, participants noted the work, under the same Programme, of the Education for Justice initiative to develop and disseminate educational tools and materials on crime prevention, criminal justice and other rule of law issues. Examples of the work carried out by both of those components of the Global Programme were provided.

### **Outcome of deliberations**

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

(a) Promote the rule of law, in particular with regard to the equal application of the law to all individuals to whom it applies;

(b) Share, together with institutes of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme network that have relevant expertise, good practices and experience in legal technical assistance and capacity-building projects that contribute to fostering a culture of lawfulness;

(c) Improve and broaden public access to legal information, through the use of accessible language and information technology, among other means, to ensure access to justice;

(d) Consider specificities of vulnerable groups and how their needs might be addressed to ensure equitable access to justice for all, for example, by ensuring that States give due regard to migrants' specific needs with regard to access to justice, including their vulnerable conditions and language needs; and consider how international cooperation can support access to justice through, among other things, the transfer of sentenced persons;

(e) Consider the potential role of traditional and indigenous justice systems, while also giving due regard to indigenous groups' specific language needs and cultural specificities when making use of justice systems;

(f) Promote measures to bring criminal justice systems closer to citizens and ensure access to justice for local populations through, for example, decentralized institutional mechanisms that can operate in local and remote areas, and by striving to ensure that the judiciary is representative of the population;

(g) Undertake measures to eliminate corruption in all its forms as a cross-cutting measure to address crime and ensure effective, accountable and impartial institutions at all levels, including promoting the integrity and independence of criminal justice institutions such as, but not limited to, the judiciary and prosecution services;

(h) Integrate the framework of effective, accountable, impartial and inclusive institutions into bilateral cooperation between Member States and within UNODC technical assistance provision;

(i) Raise awareness among children and youth and promote among them a culture of lawfulness to enhance their perception of the rule of law and to reduce conflicts with law and the commission of crimes, and consider organizing youth forums on crime prevention, criminal justice and the rule of law;

(j) Promote education from an early age on crime prevention, criminal justice and other rule of law issues, including on integrity and the prevention of corruption, integrating these issues into the educational system as a cross-cutting measure to prevent crime and foster a culture of lawfulness that upholds the rule of law among the general public;

(k) Consider promoting coordination between the criminal justice and education sectors in the formulation of crime prevention, criminal justice and other rule of law policies at the domestic and international levels;

(l) Foster and strengthen the use of information technology to promote the rule of law, especially through the development of mechanisms providing access to justice and information concerning the law, in order to ensure that institutions are transparent and accountable and that the general public can monitor institutions and report crimes, and also to educate the population, from an early age, on crime prevention, criminal justice and other rule of law issues;

(m) Consider promoting youth forums or similar venues to allow young people to become familiarized with the policymaking process concerning crime prevention, criminal justice and other aspects of the rule of law.

**4. International cooperation and technical assistance to prevent and address all forms of crime: (a) terrorism in all its forms and manifestations; and (b) new and emerging forms of crime (agenda item 6); and current crime trends, recent developments and emerging solutions, in particular new technologies as means for and tools against crime (workshop 4)**

**Summary of deliberations**

60. The Meeting discussed threats and challenges posed by terrorism in its different manifestations. Building the capacity of criminal justice institutions to address effectively those challenges and threats was identified as a priority. A number of participants shed light on the links between transnational organized crime and terrorism and stressed the need to pursue further analysis on this issue, particularly on how terrorist organizations may use techniques employed by organized criminal groups to evade surveillance or arrest or to conceal the origin of illicit assets. One participant mentioned the need for cooperation to prevent all forms of terrorism, particularly for political purposes.

61. One participant pointed out that coordinated approaches to combat terrorism were needed and that building resilient societies would be important in efforts to prevent terrorism and address violent extremism. The same participant stressed the importance of integrating gender considerations into counter-terrorism efforts and suggested further study of the varying experience of the involvement of women not only as victims of terrorism, but also as enablers or supporters of terrorist activities. It was noted that the protection of other vulnerable and marginalized groups from terrorism should also be taken into account.

62. In the field of technical assistance, it was stressed that there was a need to build on lessons learned from past activities and focus more on the sustainability of capacity-building through, inter alia, train-the-trainers programmes and updated curricula. The importance of building the capacity of competent authorities on the use of technology and equipment in support of more sophisticated law enforcement responses to crime was also mentioned.

63. The Meeting recognized the necessity of promoting and strengthening international cooperation as the cornerstone of efforts to combat affectively crimes of a transnational nature, including new and emerging forms of crime. The importance of using as legal bases for such cooperation existing multilateral instruments, such as the Organized Crime Convention, the Convention against Corruption and the drug control treaties, was emphasized. Particular reference was made to the added value of the Organized Crime Convention as a legal tool to foster international cooperation in practice.

64. The participants shed light on the advantage of using, at the operational level, networking and regional platforms for regular exchange of practical information among criminal justice practitioners and institutions. In this regard, the Meeting discussed the importance of strengthening law enforcement cooperation, as well as the usefulness of regional cooperation arrangements, including the creation of secure communication channels or platforms and mechanisms for case-handling and sharing of experience between competent authorities. The Meeting referred to practical modalities of international cooperation that could have a positive impact in the region, such as joint investigations and international cooperation to deploy special investigative techniques, including undercover operations, the use of informants and controlled deliveries. Reference was made to the need to enhance international cooperation for the protection of victims of trafficking and smuggled migrants, especially by facilitating the repatriation of such persons to their countries of origin. A number of participants noted the importance of direct cooperation between police authorities in the region, especially in providing the Police Community of the Americas with an adequate legal framework in which to operate in this regard.

65. Some participants underlined the importance of international cooperation targeting the proceeds of crime. They highlighted the role of capacity-building to

enhance skills and capabilities in conducting financial investigations, particularly in cases involving money-laundering and asset recovery. In this regard, it was noted that the Fourteenth Congress should aim to reinforce, and not duplicate or undermine, the work of other forums such as the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), the FATF-style regional bodies and particularly the Financial Action Task Force of Latin America, the Caribbean Financial Action Task Force and the Egmont Group of Financial Intelligence Units. Reference was made to a good practice of public-private partnership in this field, namely, cooperation among national law enforcement authorities, financial institutions and financial transaction centres.

66. Some participants expressed concerns about obstacles to cooperation and lack of responsiveness in cases of extradition, mutual legal assistance and asset recovery. It was noted that the rigid application of legal requirements prescribed in domestic laws or applicable treaties on international cooperation in criminal matters could cause delays and shortcomings in the execution of related requests. One participant noted that international cooperation should be afforded while bearing in mind the need to respect the national sovereignty of States involved.

67. A number of participants raised the issue of the admissibility of evidence gathered through international cooperation and highlighted the importance of ensuring that practitioners in central authorities were aware of the related legal requirements in the cooperating State. It was also suggested that the harmonization of legal frameworks on international cooperation could offer solutions, particularly with regard to the simplification of procedures. It was further proposed that Member States in the region undertake a review of their domestic laws on international cooperation with a view to identifying gaps and loopholes and developing appropriate responses to them.

68. Participants referred to examples of criminal activities carried out in the digital environment and posing significant difficulties for criminal justice practitioners. Examples included computer-related fraud, identity-related crime and the use of the Internet for terrorist purposes, as well as the sexual abuse and exploitation of children through the misuse of new information and communication's technologies and the use of the dark web for trafficking in narcotic drugs and firearms.

69. Some participants emphasized that electronic evidence was a crucial part of the investigation of transnational cases involving serious crimes, as criminals, including organized criminal groups, were making increasing use of virtual assets and the anonymity provided by current information and communications technology to perpetrate crimes, target victims and expand their activities, as well as to conceal the origin of their illicit proceeds.

70. It was acknowledged that the number of requests for mutual legal assistance to obtain or preserve electronic evidence was growing drastically, and that current methods for dealing with such requests were not efficient enough, in terms of both substance and timeliness, owing to the temporary and volatile nature of electronic data. In that regard, it was emphasized that cooperation and coordination with the private sector, especially communication service providers, was vital for securing the preservation of and access to data.

71. The Meeting deemed it essential for States to consider developing multidisciplinary strategies to address the challenges in cases involving cybercrime and to upgrade their capacity for successful and effective investigation and prosecution in such cases. It was noted that multidisciplinary strategies could range from regulatory measures and policymaking initiatives to cybercrime prevention and the training of competent authorities, including through public-private partnerships. The importance of the UNODC Global Programme on Cybercrime was highlighted.

72. The use of electronic means to transmit requests for mutual legal assistance was highlighted as a good practice in certain countries in the region. Some participants made particular reference to the negotiation, in the framework of COMJIB and the Ibero-American Network for International Legal Cooperation, within the context of

the Organization of Ibero-American States for Education, Science and Culture, of a draft agreement on the electronic transmission of requests for international cooperation among central authorities of participating States.

73. The Meeting stressed the importance of capacity-building to enhance the effectiveness of central and other competent authorities involved in international cooperation. It was further noted that direct communication between such authorities, in addition to or, where appropriate, in lieu of the use of diplomatic channels, could offer solutions geared towards expediting international cooperation. Some participants mentioned the important role of central authorities in ensuring better coordination of authorities entrusted with the task of executing incoming requests for mutual legal assistance at the domestic level.

74. One participant expressed the view that a universal cybercrime instrument was needed. Other participants expressed the opinion that, instead of a new instrument, States should focus on effectively implementing existing instruments, including the Council of Europe Convention on Cybercrime (Budapest Convention), which was open to accession by States non-members of the Council of Europe.

75. A number of participants referred to the importance, particularly for developing countries, of identifying at the national level technical assistance needs to address challenges posed by cybercrime and the gathering and use of electronic evidence. In this regard, reference was made to the work of the open-ended intergovernmental Expert Group to Conduct a Comprehensive Study on Cybercrime. It was noted that the Expert Group should continue serving as a forum for the exchange of information on national legislation, best practices, technical assistance and international cooperation.

76. The Meeting referred to existing challenges posed by such crimes as kidnapping, contraband, including contraband of fuel, and trafficking in firearms, but also noted the growth in new, emerging and evolving forms of crime, in addition to cyber-enabled crime. It was stated that emerging forms of crime included the use of technology for money-laundering, for example, through the criminal misuse of cryptocurrencies, trafficking in falsified medicine and wildlife crime. A number of participants stated that there was a need to examine the existing links between contraband and transnational organized crime.

77. Some participants expressed concern about the growth of environmental crime within the context of transnational organized crime, including illicit trade in fauna and flora, as well as fisheries crime, citing examples of how those issues affected the region. Participants noted international obligations to address fisheries crime, such as the Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing, as well as the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly target 14.6, and the need to conserve the world's oceans. The various roles of States in combating illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing were highlighted, including their roles as flag States, coastal States, market States and port authorities, as well as the need to investigate and prosecute those offences. In addition, it was noted that the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) was currently implementing its global capacity development programme aimed at facilitating and supporting the implementation of the Port State Measures Agreement and complementary international instruments and regional mechanisms to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing. Good practices of countries in the region to address this issue were highlighted.

78. The Meeting stressed the need for full mobilization of evolving technologies by law enforcement agencies and criminal justice institutions to fight against crime in all its forms and manifestations. It was noted that the use of new information and communications technologies by offenders could also generate a number of investigative and evidential leads for the criminal justice system. It was further pointed out that law enforcement authorities had more data on criminal activities at their disposal than ever before, and also an opportunity to harness such information in ways that could make gathering intelligence and investigation cost-effective. An



interesting example from the region was reported, involving the use of a digital database that enabled the detection of multiple crimes on the basis of information combined through the use of technology.

### **Outcome of deliberations**

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

(a) Undertake further research on the linkages between transnational organized crime and terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, with a view to providing policymakers with valuable information on how to address gaps that may exist and related challenges;

(b) Respond effectively to the evolving threat of drug trafficking as a transnational organized crime threat, particularly in the context of the global opioid crisis and non-medical use of synthetic drugs, as well as the criminal misuse of information and communications technologies to facilitate trafficking in synthetic drugs;

(c) Fully implement, as applicable, the provisions of the three United Nations drug control treaties, the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto, the United Nations Convention against Corruption and the international conventions and protocols relating to terrorism in order to enhance international cooperation, including asset recovery; for Member States that have not yet done so, consider becoming parties to those treaties;

(d) Promote international cooperation to prevent and counter cyber-enabled crime and build the capacity and enhance the role of law enforcement and criminal justice agencies in promoting and protecting an open, interoperable, reliable and secure Internet that supports shared values such as individual liberty, free expression, free markets and privacy;

(e) Explore ways in which the criminal misuse of new technologies is affecting and shaping traditional forms of crime, including money-laundering, economic crimes, drug trafficking and trafficking in persons;

(f) Examine the best possible approaches to further enhance international cooperation among criminal justice practitioners, in particular those in central and other competent authorities dealing with requests for international cooperation;

(g) Explore ways and means to promote effective monitoring of data collection on and analysis of emerging trends and criminal patterns, as well as the *modi operandi* of criminals and organized criminal groups, particularly in cases of transnational criminality;

(h) Enhance the role of national, regional and international cooperation among practitioners and policymakers through mechanisms for the exchange of experiences, lessons learned, good practices and practical solutions to overcome challenges that undermine effective cooperation;

(i) Consider the creation of national criminal investigation academies and the promotion of cooperation and exchange of information among them to effectively address crime challenges in the region;

(j) Discuss effective approaches to capacity-building for criminal justice institutions and practitioners, including, through cooperation among Member States and programme network institutes with relevant expertise;

(k) Explore ways and means to enable criminal justice practitioners to utilize and take full advantage of evolving technologies such as artificial intelligence and information and telecommunications technologies in the fight against crime, particularly transnational organized crime;

(l) Examine the links between contraband and transnational organized crime to gain a better understanding of those links and appropriate responses to them;

(m) Examine best practices in the use of technology by law enforcement to investigate and prosecute crimes;

(n) Promote the use of technology to make international cooperation in criminal matters more efficient, taking into consideration, inter alia, agreements between central authorities for the electronic transmission of international cooperation requests in accordance with national legislation;

(o) Promote coordination between UNODC and FAO to address environmental crimes and fisheries crime, including within the context of corruption and organized crime.

## **C. Other issues**

80. With regard to the structure and substance of the future Kyoto declaration, the Meeting agreed that:

(a) Enhanced efforts should be made to ensure that the negotiation process for the formulation of the declaration is completed prior to the Fourteenth Congress and that its adoption take place at the opening of the Congress, during its high-level segment;

(b) The Fourteenth Congress, through the Kyoto declaration, should build on the achievements of the Thirteenth Congress and the Doha Declaration and support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development for the years 2020–2025, up until five years before its intended maturity;

(c) The Fourteenth Congress should focus on the most urgent crime and security threats and criminal justice challenges and on targeted action-oriented recommendations for national practitioners, academia and civil society to respond to those challenges;

(d) The Kyoto declaration should highlight the long-standing role of national law enforcement and criminal justice practitioners in promoting and supporting the rule of law at both the national and international levels and further emphasize the need for concerted action to make their work more efficient and effective;

(e) The Kyoto declaration should highlight public-private partnerships and the role of citizens in the effort of crime prevention and criminal justice and in enhancing the rule of law, and should encourage Member States to take measures to foster a culture of lawfulness among the general public to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals;

(f) As the crime congresses constitute the most diverse forums in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice, the Fourteenth Congress in particular should be utilized to bring together crime prevention and criminal justice practitioners to exchange lessons learned and good practices pertaining to their tasks and responsibilities; for this purpose, and with a view to ensuring the adoption of action-oriented and practical recommendations as part of the Kyoto declaration, Member States should consider the participation of national experts and practitioners at the Congress to ensure the presence of the necessary and adequate expertise in pertinent deliberations. One representative recommended that Member States should include, in their delegations to the Fourteenth Congress, panellists and other experts who could offer substantive expertise to the deliberations during the workshops.

### **III. Attendance and organization of work**

#### **A. Date and venue of the Meeting**

81. The Latin American and Caribbean Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice was held in Santiago from 5 to 7 February 2019.

#### **B. Attendance**

82. The following States members of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean were represented at the Meeting: Argentina, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, El Salvador, France, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Japan, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

83. The following entities of the United Nations system were represented by observers: United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, FAO and UNODC.

84. The following institutes of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme network were represented by observers: Latin American Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (ILANUD) and the United Nations Asia and Far East Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (UNAFEI).

85. The following non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council was represented by observers: Terre des Hommes.

#### **C. Opening of the Meeting**

86. The Latin American and Caribbean Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice was opened on 5 February 2019 by the Secretary of the Meeting.

87. A representative of UNODC, speaking on behalf of the Executive Director, highlighted the importance of the United Nations congresses on crime prevention and criminal justice as a vital forum for taking stock of and assessing preparedness to deal with challenges and emerging threats and for undertaking a periodic review of crime-related standards and norms. He referred to the fact that the Fourteenth Congress would be held in Kyoto, Japan, where the Fourth Congress, the first Congress to be preceded by regional preparatory meetings, had been held 50 years previously. Since that time, the regional preparatory meetings had played an essential role in examining the substantive agenda items and topics of the workshops, and in making action-oriented recommendations from a regional perspective. The outcome of the Meeting would plant the seeds for the Kyoto declaration in 2020. The representative emphasized that the Thirteenth Crime Congress had been focused on the mutually reinforcing relationship between the rule of law and sustainable development, and that its political outcome had been well reflected in Sustainable Development Goal 16. The Fourteenth Congress, which would be held five years after the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, would provide an opportunity to take stock of and formulate practical and operational recommendations for action in support of peaceful and just societies.

88. The Deputy Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean addressed the meeting and welcomed the participants, highlighting the importance of the Regional Preparatory Meeting in ensuring diversity and the active participation of the region in the preparatory phase of the Fourteenth Congress. He referred to the significance of the 2030 Agenda for

Sustainable Development and focused, in particular, on the key role of Goal 16 of the Agenda for the region. He further noted that strengthened regional coordination and multilateralism were crucial and fundamental elements in concerted efforts to promote both crime prevention and criminal justice, as well as development goals.

#### **D. Election of officers**

89. At its 1st meeting, on 5 February 2019, the Meeting elected, by acclamation, the following officers:

*Chair:* Pía Greene (Chile)  
*Vice-Chair:* Alejandro Solano Ortiz (Costa Rica)  
*Rapporteur:* Paul Williams (Canada)

#### **E. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work**

90. Also at its 1st meeting, the Meeting adopted its provisional agenda ([A/CONF.234/RPM.3/L.1](#)), which read as follows:

1. Opening of the Meeting.
2. Election of officers.
3. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
4. Main theme of the Fourteenth Congress: “Advancing crime prevention, criminal justice and the rule of law: towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda”.
5. Substantive items on the agenda and the topics of the workshops of the Fourteenth Congress:
  - (a) 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);
  - (b) Integrated approaches to challenges facing the criminal justice system (agenda item 4); and reducing reoffending: identifying risks and developing solutions (workshop 2);
  - (c) 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 (agenda item 5); and education and youth engagement as key to making societies resilient to crime (workshop 3);
  - (d) International cooperation and technical assistance to prevent and address all forms of crime: (a) terrorism in all its forms and manifestations; and (b) new and emerging forms of crime (agenda item 6); and current crime trends, recent developments and emerging solutions, in particular new technologies as means for and tools against crime (workshop 4).
6. Recommendations for the Fourteenth Congress.
7. Adoption of the report on the Meeting.

91. At the same meeting, the Meeting approved its organization of work. The list of documents before the Meeting is contained in the annex to the present report.

92. The 1st to 3rd, 5th and 6th meetings, from 5 to 7 February, were chaired by Pía Greene (Chile); the 4th meeting, on 6 February, was chaired by Alejandro Solano Ortiz (Costa Rica).

## **F. Other matters**

93. A representative of Japan, the host country of the Fourteenth Congress, briefed the participants on the organizational and substantive preparations for the Fourteenth Congress and the youth forum that would precede it. He provided information about Kyoto, the city that would host the Fourteenth Congress, and presented an overview of the deliberations and outcome of the Fourth Congress, which had been held in Kyoto in 1970 and had been the first Congress to result in the adoption of a political declaration.

94. The observer for UNAFEI gave a statement highlighting the contribution of the Institute to the preparations for the Fourteenth Congress, including the organization of workshop 2, in collaboration with the Thailand Institute of Justice and the Secretariat. She encouraged Member States to consider including in their delegations panellists and experts who could offer substantive expertise to the deliberations during the workshop. Recalling the constructive role of UNAFEI as the member of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme network based in the host country of the Fourteenth Congress, the observer also stressed the importance of developing professional networks among practitioners and expressed the view that the Fourteenth Congress would be an excellent opportunity to strengthen such networks. In this regard, she referred to the Institute's efforts to build an international network of UNAFEI alumni and encouraged the active participation of alumni members from various jurisdictions, including Latin America, in the Fourteenth Congress.

95. In her statement, the observer for ILANUD expressed gratitude for the organization of regional forums bringing together various stakeholders from different countries to discuss measures, policies and strategies in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice. She stressed the commitment of the Institute to advance dialogue and exchange of views and expertise, as well as its readiness to support the upcoming Congress. She further stated that an ideal outcome of the Congress would be action-oriented ideas applicable to public policies.

## **IV. Adoption of the report and closure of the Meeting**

96. At its 6th meeting, on 7 February 2019, the Meeting considered and adopted its report ([A/CONF.234/RPM.3/L.2](#) and Add.1–4).

## Annex

### List of documents

<a href="#">A/CONF.234/PM.1</a>	Discussion guide
<a href="#">A/CONF.234/RPM.3/L.1</a>	Annotated provisional agenda
<a href="#">A/CONF.234/RPM.3/L.2</a> and Add.1–4	Draft report
<a href="#">A/CONF.234/RPM.3/INF.2/Rev.1</a>	List of participants
A/CONF.234/PM/CRP.1	Note by the Secretariat entitled “From policy directives to concrete results: a quinquennial strategic operational road map”

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