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Item 8 of the provisional agenda\*

**Follow-up to the Thirteenth United Nations  
Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal  
Justice and preparations for the Fourteenth United  
Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and  
Criminal Justice****Follow-up to the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on  
Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and preparations  
for the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime  
Prevention and Criminal Justice****Report of the Secretary-General***Summary*

In its resolution 71/206, the General Assembly invited Member States to provide their suggestions in relation to the overall theme, the agenda items and the topics for the workshops of the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, and requested the Secretary-General to include those suggestions in his report on the follow-up to the Thirteenth Congress and preparations for the Fourteenth Congress to be submitted to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its twenty-sixth session. In the same resolution, the General Assembly requested the Commission to approve at its twenty-sixth session the overall theme, the agenda items and the topics for the workshops of the Fourteenth Congress, to be held in Japan in 2020.

The present report provides information on action taken by Member States to implement the principles contained in 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. It also contains an overview of suggestions made by Member States in relation to the overall theme, the agenda items and the topics for the workshops of the Fourteenth Congress.

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\* E/CN.15/2017/1.



## **I. Introduction**

1. In its resolution 71/206 entitled “Follow-up to the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and preparations for the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice”, the Assembly took note of the report of the Secretary-General on the follow-up to the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and preparations for the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice ([E/CN.16/2016/11](#)) and reiterated its invitation to Governments to take into consideration 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, adopted by the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, when formulating legislation and policy directives and to make every effort, where appropriate, to implement the principles contained therein in conformity with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations.
2. In the same resolution, the General Assembly invited Member States to provide their suggestions in relation to the overall theme, the agenda items and the topics for the workshops of the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, and requested the Secretary-General to include those suggestions in the report on the follow-up to the Thirteenth Congress and preparations for the Fourteenth Congress to be submitted to the Commission at its twenty-sixth session. The Assembly also recommended that, building on the experience and the success of the Thirteenth Congress, all efforts be made to ensure that the overall theme and the agenda items and workshop topics of the Fourteenth Congress be interrelated and that the agenda items and workshop topics be streamlined and limited in number, and encouraged the holding of side events focusing on and complementing the agenda items and workshops.
3. As at 10 March 2017, pursuant to the General Assembly resolution, replies had been received from the following States: Algeria, Argentina, Brazil, Canada, China, Colombia, Czechia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Hungary, Japan, Jordan, Mexico, Morocco, Myanmar, Philippines, Poland, Romania, Slovenia, Spain, State of Palestine, Thailand, Turkey and United States of America.
4. The present report provides information on action taken by Member States to implement the principles contained in the Doha Declaration. It also contains an overview of the suggestions made by Member States in relation to the overall theme, the agenda items and the topics for the workshops of the Fourteenth Congress, to be held in Japan in 2020.

## **II. Action taken by Member States to implement the Doha Declaration**

### **Algeria**

5. Efforts made by Algeria to implement the Doha Declaration focused on ensuring that its crime prevention and criminal justice system functioned at the national and regional levels. Algeria reported that it had undertaken measures to ensure that its criminal justice system was accessible to all citizens and that it was effective in defending the principles of human rights. Also, specific safeguards were in place regarding the provision of support to foreign detainees through diplomatic channels.
6. Furthermore, Algeria reported on its efforts to improve the overall crime prevention and criminal justice system. Those included the introduction of provisions in the penal code related to the protection of women and children, particularly those who were victims of emotional, physical and sexual abuse, and

the introduction of a provision on assistance to victims of crime. In addition, legal assistance was provided under the supervision of the judicial police to ensure that rights were enforced and respected during custody.

7. In the area of combating cybercrime, Algeria reported that it had modified and supplemented the penal code by criminalizing acts violating automated data-processing systems, and that it had established special investigation procedures in that regard.

8. Because of the negative impact of corruption on the economy, specialized units had been established to combat financial crime and corruption in sports. Their responsibility included the monitoring of integrity in sports, of doping and of match-fixing, and the preparation of studies, statistics and analyses in relation to financial crime and corruption in sports.

### **Argentina**

9. Argentina reported that it had undertaken several legislative and administrative measures to address the issues discussed at the Thirteenth Congress. Those measures included the adoption of a new law to ensure that those caught in the act of committing an offence were promptly brought before a judge. Additional measures included the implementation of a programme on the protection of witnesses that sought to safeguard the integrity of those who had made a valuable contribution to judicial investigations.

10. Argentina also reported that it had developed standards for rights to be granted to all victims of crime. The Federal Council of Justice had reinforced those standards nationally in order to adjust national judicial and administrative procedures and protect the rights of victims in line with international human rights standards. In addition, a national programme on forensic sciences was implemented. The programme was aimed at implementing mechanisms and instruments to improve judicial investigations while strengthening and optimizing existing resources. Another important aspect of the programme was to foster cooperation among all entities involved in a given criminal investigation.

11. The Ministry of Justice and Human Rights of Argentina had undertaken efforts to enhance the dialogue with both civil society and experts to reform the juvenile justice system. The initiative was aimed at strengthening alternative sanctions to deprivation of liberty, and offered measures for reintegration and ensuring that incarcerated juvenile offenders had access to education and recreational learning activities. Furthermore, the Ministry was responsible for enhancing the collection of data related to the justice system. In 2016 all relevant statistics regarding prisons and incarcerated persons were published in order to promote transparency.

### **Czechia**

12. “Prison policy 2025” was an essential part of the effort of Czechia to comply with the Doha Declaration. In addition, “Probation and mediation development policy 2025” dealt with a number of issues outlined in the Doha Declaration. Furthermore, Czechia reported that it had adopted the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence. It had also participated in the development of a new Council of Europe convention on offences relating to cultural property.

13. Czechia noted that its crime prevention strategy for 2016-2020 emphasized the importance of implementing the recommendations of the Twelfth Congress and Thirteenth Congress. Partners in that endeavour came from both the public and private sectors and included academics, scientists, volunteers and entrepreneurs. National measures further included the successful implementation of new approaches and tools that improved the efficiency of criminal proceedings, such as videoconferencing networks and software to map areas in which crime was most likely to occur (known as hotspot mapping). The quality of statistical data

processing had improved, as the Act on Crime Victims had been modified with regard to the retention of information on crime-related incidents.

14. Czechia further reported that the Ministry of Interior had supported and helped to implement certain projects regarding the protection of the rights of victims. With regard to domestic violence, measures of an action plan for the prevention of domestic and gender-based violence had been implemented. In addition, the Ministry had approved a subsidy programme to finance the telecommunication services of the European crisis and assistance telephone lines. The aim of that programme was to help children in crisis and to help parents and relatives to search for their children. Operating free telephone lines was also part of a project aimed at assisting elderly victims of crime. As part of that project, a training system for law enforcement authorities has been established. Furthermore, as part of the Ministry's endeavour to protect and support victims and witnesses, police had participated in additional projects aimed at victim protection. Special hearing rooms had been set up to protect vulnerable children who were either victims or witnesses of serious crimes.

15. Czechia noted the need to further develop standards for the assessment of the needs of sentenced persons, the risks associated with them and risk management so as to provide efficient treatment in prisons to reduce the risk of relapse among sentenced persons.

16. Czechia affirmed its support for human rights protection and the elimination of violence against migrants and their families, and indicated that it adhered to the provisions of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, as well as to other international obligations. In that context it reported on its efforts to unify the interpretation of legislation concerning the criminal offence of organizing and facilitating the unauthorized crossing of the State border and any subsequent transport across the territory of the State.

17. Czechia further noted that trafficking in persons was one of the most profitable forms of organized crime, and that it was a severe violation to fundamental human rights standards. The country had enacted a provision that had contributed to making the prosecution of trafficking in persons more efficient when it was related to labour exploitation. Furthermore, Czechia reported that the public prosecutor's office had a representative for trafficking in persons, the abuse of women and children, illegal migration and employment, gender, domestic and sexually motivated violence and the protection of the rights of crime victims. The activities of the representative included collecting relevant information and knowledge about national legislation and case law, and participating in seminars covering those topics. Since 2003, the Ministry of Interior had implemented a programme of support to and protection of victims of trafficking in persons, which represented an integral part of a national reference mechanism for the support and protection of victims of trafficking in persons.

18. Czechia referred to its legal framework for enhancing international judicial cooperation. In particular it had introduced an amendment to its legislation to require courts, when issuing a European arrest warrant, to provide to the relevant authority of the surrendering State a list of lawyers in Czechia specializing in international cooperation in criminal matters from which the person who was being surrendered may choose. As a result of the same amendment, prosecutors and the police were now required to inform a person detained under a European arrest warrant of their right to choose a lawyer in the requesting State, and if the person wished to be represented by a lawyer in Czechia and one in the requesting State, prosecutors were now required to inform the relevant authority of the requesting State of that fact.

19. Czechia had further amended its legislation to align it with international standards and requirements regarding the financing of terrorism, cybercrime and the freezing and confiscation of proceeds of crime.

## Greece

20. Greece indicated that two parallel processes had been established in the context of restorative justice. The first process related to the administration of justice by the criminal courts, the second to mediation initiated by a prosecutor. Legislative measures related to the administration of justice by the criminal courts included compensation for victims of terrorist attacks, domestic violence and violent crimes committed with wilful intent. Legislative measures regarding the mediation process consisted of amendments to the criminal procedure code that concentrated on the relationship between the victim and the accused and on the role of the public prosecutor.

## Germany

21. Germany reported that it had supported the work of the United Nations in developing standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice. The country noted that a significant number of principles, guidelines and standards identified key elements for effective crime prevention and criminal justice and served as a point of reference for legislators and practitioners. In that regard, Germany considered the Doha Declaration an important guideline, to be consulted when formulating legislation and policy directives. Therefore Germany had ensured that the report on the Thirteenth Congress and the Doha Declaration had been translated into German and made accessible to a wider audience, including policymakers, practitioners and the scientific community. The Doha Declaration had also been the subject of discussions at various expert meetings.

22. Germany noted the importance of the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners, and stated that it had provided funding for the development of a handbook for prison staff on the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules). That process had started with an expert group meeting in Vienna in February 2017. Germany further reported that it had made a voluntary contribution for the development of a handbook on managing violent extremist offenders and preventing radicalization and violence in prisons.

23. Germany reported that a law to reinforce the fight against trafficking in human beings had entered into force in October 2016. The law included the legislative measures necessary to implement European Union Directive 2011/36/EU on preventing and combating trafficking in human beings and protecting its victims. In addition the law included a revised version of the rules of criminal law on trafficking in human beings. Germany further reported that racist, xenophobic or other aims and motives evidencing contempt for humanity were explicitly included in its criminal code.

24. Furthermore, Germany expressed its commitment to international cooperation in criminal matters through the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption and the Organized Crime Convention. Accordingly, the Act on International Cooperation in Criminal Matters was under constant scrutiny and was regularly amended to comply with the latest international standards.

25. In the fight against corruption, Germany reported that the Act on Combating Corruption had entered into force on 26 November 2015. The Act was designed to bolster the fight against money-laundering under criminal law and imposed penalties for self-laundering. An operational focus had been the highly topical issue of recovering criminal assets. In cooperation with countries trying to recover such assets, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the World Bank, Germany organized a number of international events throughout 2015 within the framework of the Arab Forum on Asset Recovery.

26. Germany reported that it had pursued an integrated approach to fighting terrorism that was based on intensifying cooperation at the national, regional and

international levels, implementing existing legislation, and effectively interlocking prevention and law enforcement.

### **Guatemala**

27. Guatemala reported that a range of efforts had been undertaken in cooperation with the executive, legislative and judicial branches of government, which included the introduction of the country's democratic crime policy in April 2016. That policy was focused exclusively on the treatment of violence and crime, more specifically on prevention, investigation, sanctions and rehabilitation.

28. Furthermore, Guatemala had initiated several measures to address both judicial integrity and corruption. In 2014 and 2015, 540 activities had been conducted to provide professional training to judges, court staff, civil servants, court auxiliaries, and administrative employees to improve services to the community. Guatemala further reported that a campaign had been launched to raise awareness and incentivize the population to report irregular acts and corruption. Members of the public were informed via both digital and print media where and how they could report such irregularities.

29. Other measures to prevent corruption included the publication in October 2015 of an annotated version of the law on corruption to ensure enhanced implementation of anti-corruption measures. The supervision of trials had been increased over the course of the previous three years, resulting in 68 inspections and 134 preventive visits. Another ongoing campaign focused on the role of judges as leaders in the fight against corruption. In addition, judicial decisions were made available to the public electronically to ensure greater access to information and transparency.

### **Hungary**

30. Hungary reported a wide range of efforts and strategies it had undertaken in the area of crime prevention and criminal justice. It had adopted the national crime prevention strategy 2013-2023, which focused on settlement security, the protection of children and young people, support to victims, and repeat offenders. The strategy included provisions related to promoting the participation of young people in crime prevention efforts, which was essential. In that context, the police had organized educational programmes for 5 to 18 year-olds to cover age-specific crimes.

31. Hungary reported that training was offered to staff at national police headquarters on the investigation of hate crimes and of wildlife trafficking. Furthermore, Hungary reported that it had adopted a national strategy against trafficking in human beings, and that the police had participated in the project entitled "Referral and assistance for victims of human trafficking in Europe", in collaboration with partners from Belgium and the Netherlands.

### **Jordan**

32. Jordan provided information on the efforts of its Ministry of Interior in areas such as the analysis of information on existing measures for countering transnational organized crime for the purpose of ensuring that adequate laws were in place; the implementation of a training and capacity-building strategy of national authorities to fight crime and emerging forms of crime including cybercrime; the establishment of a directorate dealing with issues related to environmental crime; and the execution of security sweeps to combat the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, their parts and components and ammunition.

33. In the area of the rehabilitation of prisoners, Jordan reported that it had undertaken comprehensive efforts including the design and development of rehabilitation programmes, the classification of prisoners, and the training of prison administrations in accordance with the Universal Declaration on Human Rights and the United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice, including the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of

Prisoners, the Body of Principles for the Protection of All Persons under Any Form of Detention and Imprisonment, the Basic Principles for the Treatment of Prisoners, the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for Non-Custodial Measures (the Tokyo Rules), and the United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders (the Bangkok Rules). Furthermore, Jordan had launched educational activities and programmes to address violent extremism in prisons, which included technical and logistical support to rehabilitate prisoners and reintegrate them into society.

34. Jordan emphasized the importance of international cooperation to strengthen national efforts in the area of prison administration and reform. International partners included the European Union, Penal Reform International, UNODC and the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute.

### **Morocco**

35. Morocco suggested to study the possibility of establishing a permanent organ composed of independent experts charged with the following tasks: collecting information on the implementation of the Organized Crime Convention and the Protocols thereto, developing a plan of action to reinforce international cooperation among States parties to the Convention and the Protocols thereto, identifying technical and legislative assistance needs, taking concrete measures to address the slow pace of international cooperation, analysing the practical utilization of specialized investigative techniques and determining whether they have been applied and used appropriately, and sharing best practices.

### **Myanmar**

36. Myanmar reported that a preliminary draft of its national crime prevention strategy was in the process of being submitted to the Office of the President. In that connection, Myanmar had formed a central committee for the implementation of its national crime prevention strategy so that, once approval had been received from the President, efforts could be made to ensure the implementation of the strategy in the period 2017-2019.

### **State of Palestine**

37. The State of Palestine reported on its measures concerning the demand and supply for narcotic drugs. Those included the establishment of a national centre for the rehabilitation of people who use drugs, and the design of a media and awareness-raising strategy that targeted different groups within society.

38. The State of Palestine further noted that it had acceded to international instruments relating to the combat against organized crime, and that national efforts had been enhanced to comply with those international instruments. Awareness-raising programmes were a key prevention measure as part of efforts to adequately address organized crime. The State of Palestine also noted the establishment of national teams on terrorism prevention and cybercrime.

39. In the area of juvenile justice, the State of Palestine had enacted special comprehensive legislation on juvenile justice, aspects of which related to the treatment of children, and alternative reform measures. The legislation further included alternative, non-custodial and diversionary measures to effectively improve the treatment of children in contact with the criminal justice system.

40. To enhance national measures to fight corruption, an independent anti-corruption commission had been established with powers that enabled it to carry out its tasks and mandated functions to prevent and fight corruption. The State of Palestine further noted the role of public participation in the activities organized by the national anti-corruption commission that targeted several official and community-based sectors to strengthen anti-corruption action. The State of Palestine

also reported that it had enacted a law on money-laundering and established a financial unit entrusted with monitoring all forms of money-laundering.

### **The Philippines**

41. The Philippines reported that it had undertaken efforts to fully implement the Doha Declaration. It noted that the Philippines Drug Enforcement Agency was at the forefront of those efforts, providing anti-drug enforcement units nationwide with guidelines for anti-drug operations and disseminating a manual on illegal drug operations the aim of which was to provide standard procedures for the conduct of anti-drug operations to both the personnel and other relevant parties.

42. While the Philippines was actively involved in the implementation of several international treaties on the fight against trafficking in human beings, it also took measures to prosecute cybercrime. In that context, the country reported that it had enacted laws on trafficking in persons and the smuggling of migrants, terrorism, cybercrime, the smuggling of cultural property, piracy, environmental crime, economic crime, intellectual property rights violations, money-laundering, arms smuggling, and drug trafficking.

### **Slovenia**

43. Slovenia described its national anti-corruption measures by outlining the work of its Commission for the Prevention of Corruption, which was an independent body for the prevention of corruption with broad powers in the public sector, including State-owned companies. It noted that, while the Commission was not part of any law enforcement agency or of the country's prosecutorial system, it helped to draft national corruption legislation and conduct administrative investigations into allegations of corruption. The Commission had a broad mandate to prevent and investigate corruption and breaches of ethics and integrity by public officials.

44. Slovenia reported various preventive measures carried out in the previous four years. Those measures included an educational project that used art and short films to teach primary school students about corruption, integrity, fairness and honesty.

45. Slovenia reported on its online software application for monitoring expenses of public bodies, which had been launched by the Commission for the Prevention of Corruption in 2011 to support the Commission's primary purpose of strengthening the rule of law, integrity and transparency, and mitigating corruption risks and conflicts of interest. The application provided information to users on business transactions of the public sector, such as legislative, judicial, administrative and independent State bodies, and local communities. The application also gave the media, regulatory and supervisory bodies and the public insights into financial flows among the public and private sectors.

### **Spain**

46. Following the Thirteenth Congress, Spain enacted several laws to address the issues discussed during that Congress. Spain reported that it had reviewed some of its outdated legislation to bring them into conformity with international standards. The review covered public safety and the protection of crime victims and children and young people.

47. Spain proposed the development of comprehensive studies to address various issues of concern. Those issues included the definition of new psychoactive substances and anabolic drugs, the regulation of sanitary products, the complementation of international and regional documents to encompass issues of cybercrime, the improvement of existing legislation to address unlawful marriage, the use of communication technologies to remove language barriers for persons involved in the investigation process, and the harmonization of national standards on organized crime.



## **Thailand**

48. Thailand reported that the Department of Corrections of its Ministry of Justice was responsible for the detention and treatment of offenders in accordance with court sentences and for providing offenders with education, vocational training, opportunities for mental development and welfare as a means of their rehabilitation and social reintegration.

49. By enacting a new penitentiary act, Thailand had implemented several measures, including the elimination of narcotics-related problems inside correctional institutions, a change in the core mission of the correctional service and the enactment of rules on inmate training in accordance with human rights principles and international standards. Additionally, Thailand reported that it had intensified national efforts to address the challenge of overcrowding in prisons by reforming prison management that had resulted in the categorization of correctional institutions into four groups: receiving prisons, controlling prisons, specialized prisons and pre-release prisons. This categorization was aimed at improving the custodial measures and to provide efficient and proper care for all groups of inmates.

50. Thailand outlined certain measures it had taken with regard to national correctional facilities. The measures included the suppression of drugs, mobile phones and contraband items in prisons, clearing and cleaning activities in prisons in order to promote physical and mental well-being and eliminating the possibility of concealing contraband items, and calling the prison to order so as to encourage inmates to obey rules in order to make their rehabilitation into society easier. Furthermore, Thailand introduced meditation and mental development programmes to enable inmates to handle their emotions effectively, and programmes that supported inmates' successful reintegration into society.

51. Thailand reported that it had hosted the first conference on crime and criminal justice of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), held in November 2016. The objectives of the conference were to promote the exchange of views and the sharing of guidelines among States members of ASEAN regarding best practices in connection with transnational organized crime, following an integrated approach to the administration of criminal justice and the sustainable development of the ASEAN community. Thailand indicated that a number of activities had been organized by the Thailand Institute of Justice in support of the implementation of the Doha Declaration. Those activities included conducting research in cooperation with Cambridge University under the title "Scoping studies on women's access to justice: the ASEAN perspective" in order to pave the way for further research into strengthening the access of women to the criminal justice system. The Thailand Institute of Justice had further held various seminars in cooperation with universities, and with the United Nations Asia and Far East Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders.

## **III. Action taken by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to implement the Doha Declaration**

52. The Government of Qatar and UNODC signed a funding agreement for the implementation of the Doha Declaration in November 2015. The activities envisaged under the agreement would directly support the operational, legislative and policy-related work required by Member States to make progress towards and successfully achieve the goals and targets contained in the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.

53. Furthermore, UNODC established a new global programme entitled "Implementation of the Doha Declaration: towards the promotion of a culture of lawfulness" (GLOZ82). The global programme focuses on four specific and interrelated components: strengthening judicial integrity and the prevention of

corruption in justice systems; fostering prisoners' rehabilitation and social integration; preventing youth crime through sports; and an initiative entitled "Education for justice", the aim of which is to develop age-appropriate educational materials and programmes on topics related to criminal justice and crime prevention and to assist Member States in integrating those programmes into the curriculums of their schools and universities.

#### **IV. Preparations for the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice**

##### **A. Overview of replies received from Governments in relation to the overall theme, the agenda items and the topics for the workshops of the Fourteenth Congress**

###### **Algeria**

54. Algeria stressed the significant role of the congresses as an international and diverse forum for the exchange of views and experiences in research, law and policy development in crime prevention and criminal justice.

55. Algeria proposed as a general theme for the Fourteenth Congress "Integrated strategies for the promotion of the rule of law and the prevention of crime for economic and social development". Algeria also suggested the following sub-theme: the promotion of judicial and police cooperation at the regional and international levels in the field of capacity-building towards the fight against transnational organized crime, and the exchange of good practices.

56. With respect to the agenda items, Algeria suggested the following topics: promotion of effective prevention and counter-radicalization programmes; the contribution of scientific approaches to the development of strategies to combat new and emerging forms of transnational organized crime; the design and implementation of programmes to combat extremism, xenophobia, intolerance and terrorism; and successes achieved and lessons learned from the role of social and educational policies in preventing and combating crime.

57. Algeria suggested the following workshop topics for the Fourteenth Congress: protection strategies against the use of the Internet for criminal purposes; the fight against transnational organized crime, including cybercrime, in particular the exploitation and sexual abuse of children; strategies for strengthening the international legal framework to combat the financing of terrorism, including the payment of ransom; appropriate programmes to address the phenomenon of foreign terrorist fighters; public policies to address the growth of drug trafficking; the prevention of and fight against modern forms of exploitation and discrimination; prevention and control of trafficking in persons and illegal immigration; strengthening crime prevention measures in criminal justice to combat trafficking in illicit arms and other related forms of crime, such as drug trafficking and terrorism; the design of appropriate programmes to promote the integrity and efficiency of the justice system; successes and best practices on the role of societies and social and educational policies in preventing and combating crime; strategies and standards related to combating the various forms of counterfeiting; the protection of children and young people from crime; and the risks of bioterrorism, chemical, bacteriological and radiological nuclear terrorism.

58. As potential areas of future action by UNODC Algeria proposed the provision of technical and methodological tools by UNODC on the conduct of victimization surveys, and the promotion of training provided by UNODC in the area of investigative techniques in order to improve technical expertise in cases where children were the victims of sexual assault. Furthermore Algeria proposed that UNODC organize regional meetings to identify responses in the fight against transnational organized crime and to encourage reform measures in poor and fragile

countries that promoted training, development and modernization of services in the area of crime prevention and criminal justice.

### **Argentina**

59. Argentina proposed that the following topics be discussed during the workshops of the Fourteenth Congress: the prevention of and fight against trafficking in human beings; enhancing the development of statistical tools for the evaluation of criminal justice; and the development of regulations aimed at eradicating cybercrime.

### **Brazil**

60. Brazil proposed the following topics for the workshops of the Fourteenth Congress: links between penal enforcement and crime prevention; a debate on mass incarceration and crime rates; countering recidivism: contributions by the prison and criminal justice systems; efficacy of penal enforcement: prison sentences, alternative sentences and social reintegration processes for the promotion of just and peaceful societies.

### **Canada**

61. Canada noted with satisfaction the early substantive preparations leading up to the Fourteenth Congress, which are in accordance with the multi-year programme of work emanating from 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 (see [E/CN.15/2007/6](#)).

62. Canada further noted that the Commission may wish to consider the successful experience of the substantive preparations for the Thirteenth Congress, in particular the significantly lower number of agenda items and workshop topics, which resulted in a focused and manageable Congress.

63. Regarding the thematic approach for the Fourteenth Congress, Canada recalled its comprehensive approach to the substantive preparations for the Thirteenth Congress, which it presented to the Commission at its twenty-first session. The approach proposed by Canada was to look at how crime, crime prevention and criminal justice fit within the broader global agenda, rather than at how Member States defined and responded to specific forms of crime. In that context Canada noted that the theme of the Thirteenth Congress did reflect that new approach and that that should be replicated at future congresses. Canada suggested that, regardless of what specific topics were decided on for the Fourteenth Congress and beyond, the agenda should include not just substantive discussions of the subject at hand, but also discussions through a contextual lens to consider a specific type of crime and responses to it within a series of broader global issues.

64. Canada argued that trying to accommodate, in the name of consensus-building, a number of issues that did not really fit together, or that had no connection with the overall theme of the Congress, would result in topics that did not produce useful discussions on any of the blended elements or issues. Furthermore, having too many agenda items and workshop topics would also make it difficult for smaller delegations to participate in all the meetings taking place during the Congress, including under the agenda items, the workshops and the ancillary meetings.

65. Furthermore, Canada stressed that the Commission should be more disciplined in choosing precise and well-delineated issues, which would allow for a more focused and dynamic discussion and exchange of information. Canada further suggested that one way to discourage having lots of minor issues cluttering the agenda might be to include in the agenda an open forum for new emerging crime issues, and to allow delegations to raise and discuss any issue they deemed important at the national and global level. Canada noted a list of the issues raised under each agenda item could be included in the report of the Congress. Canada

emphasized that the agenda for the Fourteenth Congress should connect the policy discussions under the agenda items with the more practical work being considered at the workshops.

66. Canada suggested as a theme for the Fourteenth Congress the contribution of crime prevention and criminal justice to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly Goal 16. It noted that such a theme would be broad enough to allow for the discussion of other issues, such as human rights, violence, terrorism, trafficking in persons, countering radicalization, and international cooperation to counter cybercrime.

67. Canada proposed the following agenda items for the Fourteenth Congress: restorative justice to address offending in the criminal justice system; addressing the overrepresentation of vulnerable populations in the criminal justice system; environmental crime as an emerging form of transnational organized crime: the nexus with other criminal activities and the impact on sustainable development; the rule of law: what it is and why it matters in a changing world.

68. Canada proposed the following workshop topics for the Fourteenth Congress: evidence-based crime prevention: statistics, indicators and evaluation in support of successful practices; lessons learned and successful practices in the prevention of violence against women and children and trafficking in persons; successful grass-roots approaches in support of rule-of-law education; and mental health issues in crime prevention and criminal justice.

### **China**

69. China suggested the following topics for the agenda items of the Fourteenth Congress: combating corruption and ensuring sustainable economic development; broadening international cooperation, including regional cooperation to combat all forms and manifestations of terrorism; strengthening national and international cooperation to enhance responses to cybercrime; and perfect legal systems and ensuring fair application of the law, including concrete steps to improve legal support for vulnerable groups.

70. China suggested the following topics for the workshops of the Fourteenth Congress: preventing the movement of corruption-related assets and further developing international cooperation on the recovery of assets in corruption-related cases: implementing current national and international frameworks, and various national best practices and challenges; and strengthening national and international cooperation to prevent and combat cybercrime, especially in new areas of cybercrime such as telecommunications fraud.

### **Colombia**

71. Colombia proposed as the overall theme of the Fourteenth Congress the Sustainable Development Goals as an integrated and indivisible whole that make it possible, among other things, to promote education and a culture of lawfulness for crime prevention and the strengthening of the rule of law, and to foster criminal justice responses to build peaceful, fair and inclusive societies.

### **Finland**

72. Finland suggested as the overall theme of the Fourteenth Congress the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular Goal 16 and other Goals related to crime prevention and criminal justice and the promotion of the rule of law.

73. Finland suggested that one of the workshops may look at key indicators for assessing the progress in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, and at strengthening the capacity of Member States to produce and analyse information on the performance of the criminal justice system. Finland further suggested that one of the workshops may look at the question of public support for policies in crime

prevention and criminal justice. Finland noted that this question was distinct from that of public participation, which was thoroughly discussed at the Thirteenth Congress, as criminal policy could be implemented successfully only with wide public support and continuous dialogue between policymakers and the public. As the basic principles on the use of restorative justice programmes in criminal matters dated back to 2002 (see resolution 2002/12 of the Economic and Social Council) and restorative justice practices had evolved in the intervening years, Finland further suggested that restorative justice could possibly be another workshop topic.

### **France**

74. France suggested the following topics for the workshops of the Fourteenth Congress: the fight against the falsification of medicinal products; the fight against environmental crime; and the fight against trafficking in cultural property.

### **Guatemala**

75. Guatemala proposed the following topics for the Fourteenth Congress: the importance of formulating and implementing criminal policies and strategies to combat crime under the principles of the rule of law and human rights; and the analysis of guidelines about prevention, investigation and the sanctioning of crime, while focusing on the importance of the protection of groups in vulnerable and multicultural situations.

### **Japan**

76. Japan, as the host country of the Fourteenth Congress, expressed the view that the overall theme, agenda items and workshop topics for the Fourteenth Congress should be interrelated, and that the agenda items and workshop topics should be streamlined and limited in number. Japan underlined that the Congress was one of the largest and most diverse forums for various stakeholders in the area of crime prevention and criminal justice to exchange views and experiences gained from practice, research and law and policy development. Japan noted that the agenda items, while reflecting that unique feature of the Congress, should be general enough to include a sufficiently wide range of policy issues with a research and theoretical emphasis. The workshop topics should be related to the agenda items and stimulate active discussion among the participants.

77. Japan noted the timely theme of the Thirteenth Congress: “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”. The theme had enabled the Thirteenth Congress to make great contributions to the integration of crime prevention and criminal justice issues into the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This was reflected in the Doha Declaration, the outcome document of the Thirteenth Congress, in which the paramount importance of the rule of law in crime prevention and criminal justice was strongly emphasized.

78. Further elaborating on its proposal, Japan noted that necessary laws and vigorous and fair law enforcement were clearly important as components of the rule of law. In order for the rule of law to function, public trust and respect for the law and its enforcement were crucial. Trust and respect for the law were usually referred to as a culture of lawfulness. In that context, discussions on the culture of lawfulness at the Fourteenth Congress would greatly contribute to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and would naturally result from the Doha Declaration, which recognized the importance of promoting a culture of lawfulness that supports the rule of law and human rights while respecting cultural identities.

79. Consequently, Japan suggested that one of the items on the agenda of the Fourteenth Congress could be the promotion of a culture of lawfulness that supports the rule of law in society. Such an agenda item could offer the opportunity to discuss

law-related education, fair and proper law enforcement as the basis for the public trust and the engagement of citizens in preventing crime. Additionally, Japan suggested as another item on the agenda of the Fourteenth Congress the prevention of recidivism, with, as a complementary workshop topic, how proper treatment inside and outside the crime prevention and criminal justice institutions was important to reduce recidivism, including through the application of non-custodial measures and social welfare. Japan noted that another agenda item could be terrorism and the ways in which it posed a great threat worldwide, requiring harmonized efforts to facilitate international cooperation and enhanced technical assistance to effectively combat terrorism and violent extremism. Japan suggested that such an item could be paired with a workshop that focused on juvenile justice strategies and the provision of technical assistance to address the supply of human resources for terrorist organizations.

#### **Jordan**

80. Jordan suggested the following topics for inclusion in the agenda items and/or workshop topics for the Fourteenth Congress: combating cybercrime, including the online exploitation of children and the use of the Internet for terrorist purposes; the smuggling of migrants; the role of young people in building peaceful societies for sustainable development; international cooperation in criminal matters, including with regard to trafficking in persons, the smuggling of migrants and trafficking in cultural property; and restorative justice and the role of community-based crime prevention programmes in the prevention of crime.

#### **Mexico**

81. With regard to the conduct, structure and outcome of the Congress Mexico noted the positive precedent set by finalizing the negotiations relating to the Doha Declaration in Vienna and subsequently adopting it at the high-level segment of the Thirteenth Congress, while emphasizing the importance of having a short and action-oriented outcome document. Mexico was of the view that the Fourteenth Congress should follow the structure of the Thirteenth Congress; the high-level segment, followed by the agenda items, should be maintained. However, Mexico noted that the deliberations on the agenda items should be shortened to three days.

82. Regarding the thematic approach to the Fourteenth Congress, Mexico observed that, given the nature of the congresses as gatherings of States, intergovernmental organizations and individual experts, the Fourteenth Congress provided a unique opportunity to contribute to the achievement of the goals and targets set forth in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Mexico noted that the integrated, indivisible and global nature of the Agenda was quite a timely topic, considering that the main theme of the high-level political forum on sustainable development to be held in 2019 would be empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality, focusing on Sustainable Development Goals 4, 8, 10, 13 and 16. Therefore, Mexico proposed as the main theme for the Fourteenth Congress “2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: a multidimensional approach towards consolidating the rule of law, gender equality and justice”.

83. Building on a sequential relationship between the main theme and the agenda items and workshop topics, Mexico proposed the following agenda items and related workshop topics that would complement the overall theme:

(a) Agenda item: Preventing and combating gender-based violence and advancing the rights of women and girls;

Workshop topics:

(i) Progress made in legislative measures aimed at empowering women and girls, or at eradicating gender-based violence;

(ii) Access of women to leadership and managerial positions, and contributions by women to criminal justice systems and security, law enforcement and judicial institutions;

(iii) Expertise in research on trafficking in persons and assistance to victims based on a human rights approach, a gender perspective and comprehensive protection for children and adolescents;

(iv) Challenges and perspectives for a gender-specific treatment of offenders, including the rehabilitation and reintegration of women offenders deprived of their liberty.

(b) Agenda item: Education and a culture of non-violence and respect for the rule of law aimed at achieving peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development;

Workshop topics:

(i) Promoting public-private partnerships in support of the rule of law;

(ii) Empowering young people, drawing on them as agents of positive change in preventing crime and promoting a culture of lawfulness;

(iii) Participatory management and planning aimed at making cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable, by fostering innovative local initiatives based on social policies.

(c) Agenda item: Law enforcement, technological innovation and justice;

Workshop topics:

(i) Conditions that enable trafficking in firearms, including trafficking in advanced technology used in the manufacture of illicit firearms employed by transnational organized criminal groups and terrorist organizations;

(ii) Promoting capacity-building and technological innovation aimed at reducing illicit financial and arms flows linked to organized criminal groups and terrorist organizations;

(iii) International mechanisms aimed at strengthening the recovery and return of stolen assets related to organized criminal groups and terrorist organizations.

### **State of Palestine**

84. The State of Palestine suggested convening periodic meetings to identify the most suitable overall theme, agenda items and workshop topics for the Fourteenth Congress. The State of Palestine further suggested that, during those meetings, consideration should be given to the most serious of crimes, such as terrorism, drug trafficking, trafficking in persons, trafficking in cultural property, corruption, money-laundering and cybercrime.

### **Poland**

85. Instead of proposing an overall theme or agenda items for the Fourteenth Congress, Poland proposed the inclusion of the following workshop topics: promotion of the rule of law in the domestic and international contexts, including public participation; operational cooperation among law enforcement agencies dealing with tax offences, including a comprehensive approach to that phenomenon, and solutions to “seal off the tax system” and facilitate the prosecution of tax offenders; cooperation in combating transnational economic crime, including tax fraud; disclosure and recovery of assets deriving from crime, and the question of benefits from crime; and enhancing the effectiveness and standardization of preventive actions in the face of today’s security threats, with particular focus on the issue of migration.

**Romania**

86. Using the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals as the basis for an overall theme for the Fourteenth Congress, Romania suggested the following topics: safe and sustainable cities through enhanced international cooperation (relating to Goal 11); developing international cooperation in combating crimes affecting public funds (relating to Goal 16, in particular targets 16.4, 16.5 and 16.a); permanently protecting forests, combating the degradation of natural habitats, and halting the loss of biodiversity through enhanced international cooperation (relating to Goal 15); and effective systems for preventing and combating corruption and money-laundering (relating to Goal 16).

87. Romania proposed the following topics as agenda items for the Fourteenth Congress: enhancing international cooperation in criminal matters using the Organized Crime Convention and the Convention against Corruption; urgent and prompt actions to combat poaching and trafficking in wildlife products through enhanced international cooperation in the field; the role of criminology in preventing urban crime; challenges and best practices in the admissibility of electronic evidence in international cooperation cases; strengthening the capacity of relevant national authorities in protecting public money; preventing and reducing illicit financial flows; violence against children; combating serious and organized crime; terrorism and freedom on the Internet; public access to information; financial investigations as a modern tool in the fight against corruption and money-laundering; and the use of tools provided by the Convention against Corruption and the Organized Crime Convention for investigating medium and high-level corruption in connection with money-laundering.

88. Romania suggested the following topics for the workshops of the Fourteenth Congress: transfer of proceedings and recognition of foreign judgments as alternatives to extradition; tackling corruption and economic crime through freezing and confiscation measures; the transfer of sentenced persons and the reintegration of offenders; supervision measures (probation measures) in the context of international cooperation and the free movement of people; disclosure schemes relating to child offenders (national registers); combating the proliferation of serious crimes on darknet markets; good practices for Internet content control, public safety versus freedom of expression; the role of communication technologies in crime prevention; international cooperation in the gathering and exchange of information on illicit financial flows; practical instruments for international cooperation relating to the recovery of criminal assets; the management of seized assets, and asset sharing; presentation of cases of medium and high-level corruption in connection with money-laundering; measures to increase the reintegration of sentenced persons and to prevent recidivism; new international trends in law enforcement; ensuring the balance between measures to protect the victim in criminal trials and the right of the accused person to a fair trial; tackling freezing and confiscation measures with the objective of conservation and reforestation; adopting enforceable legislation and strengthening existing legislation that promotes the permanent protection of natural habitats, including through international cooperation.

**Spain**

89. Spain suggested the following workshop topics for the Fourteenth Congress: public health with a specific focus on new psychoactive substances and anabolic drugs; cybercrime as a medium to both facilitate and commit crimes; trafficking in human beings; the rights of victims; and the quality of existing databases on organized crime.

**Thailand**

90. Thailand suggested the following topics for the Fourteenth Congress: the interrelation between criminal justice, crime prevention and sustainable development, especially as regards the review and reform of existing legislation or



the enactment of new legislation in line with human rights obligations to conform to fundamental provisions of the Bangkok Rules; successes and challenges, including difficulties to combat new and emerging forms of crime, such as cybercrime and the online commercial sexual exploitation of children; the importance of promoting knowledge creation and knowledge-sharing regarding cybercrime nationally and globally in order to tackle the challenges of the digital era, while conforming to international standards and norms; and the development of criminal justice performance indicators in the area of a safety index, access to justice and capacity-building for criminal justice officials.

### **Turkey**

91. Instead of proposing a specific overall theme, agenda items or workshop topics for the Fourteenth Congress, Turkey suggested to develop the following focus areas related to countering terrorism in the workshops: enhanced cooperation and information-sharing among Member States with a view to preventing the financing of terrorism by transnational organized crime activities, and combating the recruitment activities of terrorist organizations; the apprehension of persons wanted under an international warrant, the sharing of seized materials and documents, the efficient sharing of information regarding terrorist organizations and their activities, and organizing bilateral and multilateral meetings among relevant national authorities; considering the possibility that members of terrorist organizations might apply for political asylum and exploit that status, and the importance of advanced mutual investigation and consultation among Member States before applications for political asylum are considered; increasing the monitoring and supervision of organizations that seem to operate legally but are in reality subsidiaries of terrorist organizations and act as their façades, and are instrumental in terrorist recruitment and financing, and the importance of terminating the activities of such terrorism-linked malign entities; the prevention of the illegal entry of members of terrorist organizations into Member States, and increasing the inspection of travel documents; and possible further steps to enhance regional cooperation in the fight against transnational organized crime.

### **United States**

92. The United States suggested the following agenda item for the Fourteenth Congress: promoting effective international cooperation to combat transnational organized crime and terrorist networks and their facilitative crimes, including money-laundering.

93. The United States proposed the following topics for the workshops of the Fourteenth Congress: preventing the involvement of young people in crime and terrorism, reducing recidivism, and improving criminal justice outcomes for children and young people; and evidence-based responses to crime: research data and analysis to support effective crime prevention and criminal justice strategies.

## **B. Preliminary informal consultations in preparation for the Fourteenth Congress**

94. The early identification of Japan as the host country for the Fourteenth Congress, to be held in 2020, enabled UNODC and Japan to initiate preliminary discussions to ensure the proper planning and the efficiency of the Fourteenth Congress. Informal consultations were held in Japan between UNODC, the national authorities of the host country and other experts in January 2017. During those consultations UNODC emphasized the importance of close coordination with all parties involved in the preparation for the Congress, including government counterparts in the host country and the institutes of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme network. UNODC briefed the national authorities of Japan on key substantive aspects pertaining to the preparations for the Fourteenth Congress and to its conduct and structure. In that context, UNODC

suggested that consideration be given to the methodological approach taken to the preparations for the Thirteenth Congress, which was based on the delineation of three distinct but logically interrelated phases of the congresses: preparation; conduct and structure; and outcome and follow-up thereto.

95. The briefing also included information on preparatory arrangements of an administrative nature (such as planning missions and the development of the host country agreement). Discussions included the development of a timeline delineating all the necessary steps and milestones of preparatory action on the road to the holding of the Fourteenth Congress in Japan, based on the practice followed in the preparations for previous Congresses, and particularly the Thirteenth Congress. The national authorities of Japan reiterated their commitment to making every possible effort to facilitate the preparations for the Fourteenth Congress.

96. UNODC and the Permanent Mission of Japan hold regular meetings to ensure the timeliness of organizational and substantive preparations for the Fourteenth Congress.

97. The Permanent Representative of Japan, in his capacity as Chair of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its twenty-sixth session, convened dialogue with non-governmental organizations on 6 March 2017 in order to share information on the preparations for the twenty-sixth session of the Commission and the preparations for the Fourteenth Congress.

## **C. Conclusions**

98. The General Assembly, in its resolution 71/206, requested the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice to approve at its twenty-sixth session the overall theme, the agenda items and the topics for the workshops of the Fourteenth Congress.

99. The Commission may wish to bear in mind that the earlier a decision is taken on the overall theme, the agenda items and the workshop topics of the Fourteenth Congress, the easier it will be to undertake preparatory activities for the Congress. In particular the development of the discussion guide and arrangements for the regional preparatory meetings, as well as consultations on the workshop programmes with the institutes of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme network will be greatly facilitated. Furthermore, the Secretariat will be able to consult with relevant United Nations bodies and agencies to get involved in the preparation and conduct of the Fourteenth Congress, as well as with relevant non-governmental organizations for the planning of the ancillary meetings to be held at the Congress.

100. The Commission may wish to consider the recommendation of the General Assembly, made in its resolution 71/206, that building on the experience and the success of the Thirteenth Congress, all efforts be made to ensure that the overall theme and the agenda items and workshop topics of the Fourteenth Congress be interrelated and that the agenda items and workshop topics be streamlined and limited in number, and the fact that the Assembly, in the same resolution, encouraged the holding of side events focusing on and complementing the agenda items and workshops.

101. As regards the structure and conduct of the congresses, the Commission may wish to give consideration to the methodological approach taken to prepare the Thirteenth Congress. That approach was based on the notion that each congress consisted of three distinct but logically interrelated phases: preparation; conduct and structure; and outcome and follow-up. Furthermore, the Commission may wish to consider the beneficial impact of the high-level segment as an integral part of the proceedings to enable Heads of State and Government and government ministers to focus on the main substantive agenda items and to exchange views and experiences on issues of international concern.

102. Furthermore, the Commission may wish to give consideration to the following recommendations by the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Lessons Learned from United Nations Congresses on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in selecting the substantive topics for a congress, while taking into account the nature and significance of those potential topics:

(a) Issues of substantial concern and importance to as many States as possible from all regions;

(b) Issues that strike a balance between crime prevention and control, on the one hand, and criminal justice, on the other;

(c) Issues of political significance on which consensus has already been reached, but for which a reiteration of political commitment might be warranted or desirable, or on which progress in action by the international community would be registered;

(d) Issues likely to command consensus for the first time;

(e) Emerging issues that do not enjoy consensus and are not likely to do so in the near future, but that warrant more discussion and accumulation of knowledge.

103. In addition, the following criteria should be used for the selection of workshop topics:

(a) Within the overall framework of the substantive items before a congress, the workshops should have a narrower scope, targeting specific issues, which might include emerging trends;

(b) The topics of the workshops should be relevant, or of substantial concern and importance, to as many States as possible from all regions;

(c) The workshops should focus on practical solutions, including best practices;

(d) The workshops should foster an exchange of views, raise awareness and create a body of knowledge for practitioners, policymakers, representatives of non-governmental organizations and the academic and scientific professional community, as well as the private sector, as appropriate;

(e) Wherever appropriate, the workshops should stimulate and create opportunities for international cooperation and technical assistance.

104. The Commission may also wish to consider the added value of the important contributions made to the congresses by the non-governmental and professional communities and by individual experts, as reflected in the growing number of ancillary meetings held during recent congresses as a very useful contribution to their proceedings.

105. In implementing the mandate entrusted to it by the General Assembly in its resolution 71/206, the Commission may wish to take into account the proposals and suggestions made by a number of Member States on the substantive aspects of the Fourteenth Congress. In that connection, the Commission may wish to note the apparent convergence of views expressed by Member States around a number of issues and substantive areas. That convergence of views augurs well for the ability of the Commission to arrive at an early agreement on the main theme, agenda items and workshop topics, which would be satisfactory for all Member States. Of particular significance in that regard is that the integrated and interconnected nature of the Sustainable Development Goals and the importance of consolidating and strengthening the rule of law to achieve sustainable development are prevalent in the contributions of many Member States.

106. That prevalence is indicative of two key aspects. First, it shows that the commitment of Member States to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development remains at least as strong as it was when the Agenda was adopted. That is coupled with a growing appreciation of the importance of the rule of law and of transparent,

accountable, efficient and effective institutions for the achievement of the entire 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Second, it is indicative of the embedded appreciation among Member States for the role of the United Nations congresses as major intergovernmental forums with the potential to influence, guide and contribute to policymaking and international cooperation for the development of crime prevention and criminal justice institutions capable of buttressing and fostering the achievement of the targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

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