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Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

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**Follow-up to the Fourteenth United Nations
Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal
Justice and preparations for the Fifteenth United
Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and
Criminal Justice**

Statement submitted by the International Organization for Victim Assistance, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council**

The Secretary-General has received the following paper, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* [E/CN.15/2021/1](#).

** Issued without formal editing.



**Written statement to Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice
30th Session on Item 9 Follow-up to the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on
Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice**

Decisive action is needed now to accelerate the use of crime prevention to reduce significantly violent crime and so meet SDG 16.1, 16.2 and 5.2 for Agenda 2030.

Member States and intergovernmental organizations must follow-up the important paragraphs on advancing crime prevention in the Kyoto Declaration by concrete steps to multiply use of proven crime prevention, international guidelines for its implementation, and promising city strategies.

The smart accelerators to get action include raising awareness of proven prevention strategies, developing human capacity to plan prevention consistent with ECOSOC guidelines, sharing examples of cities who have significantly reduced violence, and fostering measurement to set targets and plan how to achieve the SDG targets.

World leaders must shift the focus from only improving criminal justice to adding significant and smart investments in crime prevention to reduce violence significantly. We can no longer expect to get significant reductions in violence without some significant changes in how we address the causes of violence, particularly in high violence zones where violence is not decreasing. Reductions in violence will increase GDP significantly and provide safer futures for all, including women and children.

COVID has shown us the importance of prevention, evidence, and our ability to transform our policies quickly. Unfortunately, it has added urgency to tackling the causes of violence against women and children. Experts in Kyoto shared how affordable and popular investments in effective prevention will save annually by 2030 100,000s of homicides, millions of women from intimate partner and sexual violence, and 100s of millions of young people from being victims of violence.

The decisive action needed were identified by experts who are international leaders in their field based in [Africa](#), [Canada](#), [Europe](#), [Latin America](#), and the [United States](#). They have backgrounds in government, intergovernmental agencies, cities and [academia](#). Their solutions address the needs of cities in both high and low violence regions. One source of the practical actions discussed is Irvin Waller, *Science and Secrets of Ending Violent Crime*, New York, Rowman Littlefield (2019) and Irvin Waller *Ciencia y Secretos para Acabar con el Crimen Violento*, INACIPE, ILANUD, (2021).

Decisive actions must apply the principles on advancing crime prevention in the Kyoto Declaration. It is essential to rapidly raise awareness among Member States and inter-governmental organizations of:

Scientifically proven prevention programmes identified by the World Health Organization and others that have reduced violent victimizations by 50 per cent better than the reactive criminal justice system; These include services that outreach to youth, curricula to change attitudes to violence, support for parenting, income support, and reforms to policing.

Guidelines on how to implement prevention effectively as agreed by the United Nations Economic and Social Council, UNODC, UN-Habitat and representatives from Latin American governments; These include offices for violence prevention, multi-sectoral ways to tackle causes, and measuring results.

Cities that have reduced violence by 50 per cent within just a few years. New networks of cities and national congresses share successful and proven experiences, train human talent, support monitoring and get political commitment to achieve reductions by 2030.

The return on investment from the equivalent to 10 per cent of what is currently spent on the reactive system of criminal justice. Smart investment now will not only reduce violence significantly but will achieve other SDGs and, particularly in high

violence zones, will increase GDP, stop refugees fleeing violence, and foster the rule of law.

Accelerators would include actions:

1. **Intergovernmental organizations** must support training and safety monitor tools, foster exchanges to share successes, and require investments in violence prevention for socio- economic development;
2. **Governments** must establish a permanent office for violence prevention to:
 - (a) Promote ways to address the long term causes of violence, such as inequality, lack of education, availability of guns, and drug abuse;
 - (b) Tackle risk factors for violence, using proven strategies that are cost effective and get results quickly, particularly in cities;
 - (c) Raise awareness among the public and support training for decision makers and practitioners on effective strategies.
3. **Cities** must shift to using proven prevention, following implementation guidelines, to tackle causes and risk factors locally, but with adequate and sustained financial and technical support from other orders of government to make it happen.

These proposals have received support from Criminologists Without Borders, Faith Based Coalition on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, International Association of Advancement of Innovative Approaches to Global Challenges, Universal Peace Federation. Additional information is available from iwaller@uottawa.ca.
