



Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice



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I. Background and preparations for the Congress

1. The Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice was convened in accordance with paragraph (d) of the annex to General Assembly resolution 415 (V), which provided for the convening every five years of an international congress in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice, as well as in pursuance of Assembly resolutions 46/152, annex, 56/119, 70/174, 71/206, 72/192, 73/184 and 74/171 and General Assembly decisions 74/550 A and B.

2. In its resolution 70/174, the General Assembly welcomed with appreciation the offer of the Government of Japan to act as host to the Fourteenth Congress. In its resolution 72/192, the Assembly decided that the main theme of the Fourteenth Congress should be “Advancing crime prevention, criminal justice and the rule of law: towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda”. In its resolution 73/184, the Assembly decided to hold the Fourteenth Congress in Kyoto, Japan, from 20 to 27 April 2020, with pre-Congress consultations to be held on 19 April 2020. In the same resolution, the Assembly decided that the high-level segment of the Fourteenth Congress should be held during the first two days of the Congress in order to allow Heads of State or Government and government ministers to focus on the main theme of the Congress and to enhance the possibility of generating useful feedback. Also in the same resolution, the Assembly reiterated its invitation to Member States to be represented at the Fourteenth Congress at the highest possible level and to play an active role in the Congress. Owing to the situation concerning COVID-19, the Assembly decided, in its decision 74/550 A, to postpone the holding of the Fourteenth Congress. In its decision 74/550 B, the Assembly decided to hold the Fourteenth Congress from 7 to 12 March 2021 in Kyoto, with pre-Congress consultations to be held on 6 March 2021.

3. In its resolution 72/192, the General Assembly decided on the four issues to be considered by the workshops to be held within the framework of the Fourteenth Congress, emphasized the importance of those workshops and invited Member States, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and other relevant entities to provide financial, organizational and technical support to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the institutes of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme network for the preparations for the workshops, including the preparation and circulation of relevant background material.

4. Five regional preparatory meetings for the Fourteenth Congress were held in 2019: (a) Asia and Pacific Regional Preparatory Meeting, held in Bangkok from



22 to 24 January 2019; (b) Latin American and Caribbean Regional Preparatory Meeting, held in Santiago from 5 to 7 February 2019; (c) Western Asia Regional Preparatory Meeting, held in Beirut from 26 to 28 March 2019; (d) African Regional Preparatory Meeting, held in Addis Ababa from 9 to 11 April 2019; and (e) European Regional Preparatory Meeting, held in Vienna from 23 to 25 April 2019.

II. Attendance and organization of work

A. Date and venue of the Congress

5. The Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice was held in Kyoto from 7 to 12 March 2021, pursuant to General Assembly resolutions 70/174, 71/206, 72/192, 73/184 and 74/171, as well as Assembly decisions 74/550 A and B. It combined an in-person component at the Kyoto International Conference Center with a large online presence, with participants worldwide attending by means of an interactive event platform.

B. Pre-Congress consultations

6. In conformity with the practice followed at United Nations special conferences and pursuant to General Assembly resolution 56/119, informal pre-Congress consultations were held on 6 March 2021. Participation in the consultations was open to representatives of all States invited to the Congress. A set of recommendations on the organization of work of the Congress were agreed upon in the course of the consultations (see [A/CONF.234/L.1](#)).

C. Attendance

7. [...]

D. Opening of the Congress

8. The Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice was officially opened by the Secretary-General of the Congress and Executive Director of UNODC, Ghada Waly.

9. Speaking on behalf of Qatar, the host country of the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, the Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Qatar to the United Nations (Vienna), Sultan Salmeen Almansouri, presented a video message by the Minister of Justice of Qatar, Issa bin Saad Al Jafali Al Nuaimi, in which he stressed his country's readiness to support the organization of and discussions at the Fourteenth Congress.

10. After her election, the President of the Fourteenth Congress, Kamikawa Yoko, Minister of Justice of Japan, was ceremonially presented with a statue entitled *Boat Symbolizing Journey* by Sultan Salmeen Almansouri (Qatar).

11. The President of the Fourteenth Congress addressed the Congress, highlighting the significance of holding the Congress during the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) period and advancing crime prevention and criminal justice with a view to leaving no one behind, as well as the role of youth as torchbearers for the future.

12. A documentary film on the preparations for the Fourteenth Congress was shown.

13. Princess Takamado (Japan) made a statement, noting that the unwavering commitment to building safe and secure societies was a beacon that shined the way for all victims of social and criminal injustice.

14. A documentary film on the Youth Forum preceding the Fourteenth Congress, organized by the Government of Japan, was shown. The Forum had been held on 27 and 28 February 2021 in a hybrid format. It had brought together 150 youth participants representing 35 nationalities, holding discussions under the overall theme “Youth engagement for our safe and secure society: towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals”. Two participants in the Youth Forum presented the recommendations for global, regional and national action, which were symbolically handed over to the Executive Secretary of the Congress.

15. The Prime Minister of Japan, Suga Yoshihide, made a statement, noting that the international community needed to work together to strengthen efforts in crime prevention and ensure that criminal justice systems were fully functional, even amidst the COVID-19 crisis.

16. The Secretary-General of the United Nations, Antonio Guterres, made a statement using the online platform of the Congress. He highlighted that respect for the rule of law underpinned human rights and enabled sustainable, social, political and economic development.

17. Video messages by the President of the General Assembly, Volkan Bozkir, and the President of the Economic and Social Council, Munir Akram, were shown.

18. The Prosecutor-General of Japan, Hayashi Makoto, made a statement underscoring the importance of tailor-made responses to various forms of crime and of stepping up international cooperation and collaboration for preventing and combating crime.

E. Organizational arrangements arising from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19)

19. The Fourteenth Congress endorsed the organizational arrangements arising from COVID-19 contained in conference room paper A/CONF.234/CRP.2, on the basis that they would not constitute a precedent for future congresses.

F. Election of the President and of other officers

20. At its 1st plenary meeting, on 7 March 2021, the Fourteenth Congress elected by acclamation Kamikawa Yoko, Minister of Justice of Japan, and head of the delegation of the host country, as President of the Congress.

21. At the same meeting, the Congress also elected by acclamation Jose Antonio Marcondes de Carvalho (Brazil) as Chair of Committee I, Matti Joutsen (Finland) as Chair of Committee II, Antoinette Ifeanyi Oche-Obe (Nigeria) as Rapporteur-General and the following States as Vice-Presidents: Côte d’Ivoire, Egypt, Kenya, Libya, Morocco and Namibia (African States); Bangladesh, China, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Kuwait, Qatar and Thailand (Asia-Pacific States); Colombia, Cuba, Paraguay and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) (Latin American and Caribbean States); and Belgium, Italy, Netherlands, Spain and Switzerland (Western European and other States).

22. A representative of the United States of America announced that his country would submit a written statement for the record on the agenda item.

23. At its 1st meeting, on 7 March, Committee I elected by acclamation Adrien Vernimmen (Belgium) as its Rapporteur.

24. At its 1st meeting, on 8 March 2021, Committee II elected by acclamation Luigi Ripamonti (Italy) as its Rapporteur.

G. Adoption of the rules of procedure

25. At its 1st plenary meeting, on 7 March, the Congress adopted by consensus its rules of procedure ([A/CONF.234/2](#)).

H. Adoption of the agenda

26. At its 1st plenary meeting, on 7 March, the Congress adopted the provisional agenda ([A/CONF.234/1/Rev.1](#)) as approved by the General Assembly in its resolution 72/192. The agenda was as follows:

1. Opening of the Congress.
2. Organizational matters:
 - (a) Election of the President and of other officers;
 - (b) Adoption of the rules of procedure;
 - (c) Adoption of the agenda;
 - (d) Organization of work;
 - (e) Credentials of representatives to the Congress:
 - (i) Appointment of members of the Credentials Committee;
 - (ii) Report of the Credentials Committee.
3. Comprehensive strategies for crime prevention towards social and economic development.
4. Integrated approaches to challenges facing the criminal justice system.
5. 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.
6. International cooperation and technical assistance to prevent and address all forms of crime:
 - (a) Terrorism in all its forms and manifestations;
 - (b) New and emerging forms of crime.
7. Adoption of the report of the Congress.

I. Allocation of items

27. It was decided that items 1–7 of the provisional agenda, as well as the high-level segment of the Fourteenth Congress, be allocated to plenary meetings. It was also decided that workshops 1 and 3 be allocated to Committee I for consideration and that workshops 2 and 4 be allocated to Committee II for consideration.

J. Organization of work

28. At its 1st plenary meeting, on 7 March, in accordance with the recommendations of the pre-Congress consultations held on 6 March ([A/CONF.234/L.1](#)), the Congress approved its organization of work.

K. Credentials of representatives to the Congress and appointment of members of the Credentials Committee

29. At its 1st plenary meeting, on 7 March, in accordance with rule 4 of the rules of procedure ([A/CONF.234/2](#)) and as proposed by the President, the Congress decided that the following States should be appointed members of the Credentials Committee: Cameroon, Ecuador, Italy, Japan, Mongolia, the Russian Federation, the United Republic of Tanzania, the United States and Uruguay.

30. At its 7th plenary meeting, on 9 March, as proposed by the President, the Congress decided that Angola should be appointed as member of the Credentials Committee to replace Cameroon, which was no longer in a position to participate in the Committee.

L. Participation of non-governmental organizations in the Congress

31. With regard to the participation of non-governmental organizations in the Congress, the report of the pre-Congress consultations ([A/CONF.234/L.1](#)) and conference room paper A/CONF.234/CRP.9 were brought to the attention of participants.
