

**Economic and Social Council**Distr.: General  
20 October 2006

Original: English

**Commission on Crime Prevention  
and Criminal Justice****Sixteenth session**

Vienna, 23-27 April 2007

Item 5 of the provisional agenda\*

**Follow-up to the Eleventh United Nations****Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice****Report of the meeting of the Intergovernmental Group of  
Experts on Lessons Learned from United Nations  
Congresses on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, held  
in Bangkok from 15 to 18 August 2006***Summary*

The report of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Lessons Learned from United Nations Congresses on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice has been prepared pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 2006/26 of 27 July 2006. It provides an account of the discussions of the Group of Experts, which analysed three distinct but logically interrelated phases of the United Nations crime congresses: preparation, conduct and follow-up. The report addresses specific aspects of these phases, including the selection of substantive agenda items and workshop topics, time allocation, effective follow-up to the congresses, political declarations and the role of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. The report also contains practical recommendations for the consideration of the Commission.

---

\* E/CN.15/2007/1.



## Contents

<i>Chapters</i>	<i>Paragraphs</i>	<i>Page</i>
I. Introduction .....	1-3	3
II. Organization of the meeting .....	4-8	3
A. Opening of the meeting .....	4-5	3
B. Attendance .....	6	4
C. Election of officers .....	7	4
D. Adoption of the agenda .....	8	4
III. Deliberations .....	10-34	5
A. Preparations for United Nations crime congresses .....	18-23	6
B. Structure of United Nations crime congresses .....	24-27	8
C. Outcome of United Nations crime congresses and follow-up thereto .....	28-34	9
IV. Conclusions and recommendations .....	35-47	11
V. Adoption of the report and closure of the meeting .....	48-50	14
<b>Annexes</b>		
I. List of participants .....		15
II. List of documents .....		17

## **I. Introduction**

1. In its resolution 2006/26, adopted on 27 July 2006 on the recommendation of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, the Economic and Social Council reiterated its invitation to Governments to implement the Bangkok Declaration on Synergies and Responses: Strategic Alliances in Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and the recommendations adopted by the Eleventh United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice<sup>1</sup> in formulating legislation and policy directives and taking all other relevant measures, and invited Member States, in a spirit of common and shared responsibility, as acknowledged in the Bangkok Declaration, to improve international cooperation in the fight against crime and terrorism, at the multilateral, regional and bilateral levels, in areas including extradition and mutual legal assistance within the framework of existing relevant legal instruments.

2. In the same resolution, the Council recognized that capturing lessons learned could be a valuable management tool for future planning and programmes and to provide feedback to effect future improvement and that it helped to develop effective and informed policies, and requested the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) to convene an intergovernmental group of experts with equitable geographical distribution to discuss the Eleventh United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and previous congresses, in order to accumulate and consider lessons learned from prior congresses with a view to developing a methodology for capturing such lessons for future congresses. UNODC was requested to submit a report of the work of the Group of Experts to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its sixteenth session for its consideration.

3. Pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 2006/26 and grateful for the generous offer of the Government of Thailand to act as host for the meeting, the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Lessons Learned from United Nations Congresses on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice was held in Bangkok from 15 to 18 August 2006.

## **II. Organization of the meeting**

### **A. Opening of the meeting**

4. The meeting was opened on 15 August 2006 by the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Justice of the Kingdom of Thailand. He expressed thanks to Princess Bajrakitiyabha for honouring the meeting with her presence and his pleasure that the United Nations had accepted the offer of the Government of Thailand to host the meeting of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts. He also expressed appreciation to UNODC for an increase in collaboration with the Ministry of Justice of Thailand in the co-hosting of seminars. The Minister emphasized the importance of the United Nations congresses and wished the delegates every success in achieving the objectives of the meeting.

---

<sup>1</sup> General Assembly resolution 60/177, annex.

5. The Deputy Representative of the UNODC Regional Centre for East Asia and the Pacific recalled the extensive input and assistance provided by the Government of Thailand in organizing the Eleventh Congress and noted that that successful event had resulted in the Bangkok Declaration, which encompassed and considered some of the most urgent crime prevention and criminal justice topics on the agenda of the international community. Noting that the new crime conventions represented the culmination of the international consensus on crime issues and that the crime congresses had been a primary mechanism for establishing such consensus, he emphasized the need to continue the momentum. The issue of follow-up had remained high on the agenda of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and it was within the mandate of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts to consider how the outcomes of the congresses had been achieved and reviewed. In addition, he observed that the mandate of the Group was to pave the way for the identification of a methodology that would allow for the capturing of knowledge and experience for the benefit of the organization of future congresses.

## **B. Attendance**

6. The meeting was attended by 113 experts from 39 countries. The meeting was also attended by two guest observers participating in their personal capacity and observers from the Australian Institute of Criminology, the Asia and Far East Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, the African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and the Regional Office for South-East Asia of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. An additional 40 observers from Thailand participated in the meeting. A list of participants is contained in annex I to the present report.

## **C. Election of officers**

7. The following officers were elected by consensus:

*Chairman:* Wisit Wisitsora-At (Thailand)

*Vice-Chairmen:* Thouraya Benmokrane (Algeria)  
Dimana Dermendjieva-Dramova (Bulgaria)  
Antenor Madruga (Brazil)

*Rapporteur:* Lucie Angers (Canada)

## **D. Adoption of the agenda**

8. The meeting adopted the following agenda:

1. Opening of the meeting.
2. Election of officers.
3. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.

4. Review of previous United Nations congresses on crime prevention and criminal justice.
  5. Lessons learned from previous congresses.
  6. Capitalizing on lessons learned and methodology for capturing such lessons for future congresses.
  7. Conclusion and recommendations.
  8. Adoption of the report and closure of the meeting.
9. The documentation made available to the meeting is listed in annex II to the present report.

### **III. Deliberations**

10. The meeting recognized that the United Nations crime congresses were the oldest periodic United Nations conferences devoted to a specific subject area. They had been convened six times in Western Europe (Geneva, 1955 and 1975; London, 1960; Stockholm, 1965; Milan, 1985; and Vienna, 2000), twice in Asia (Kyoto, 1970; and Bangkok, 2005); twice in Latin America (Caracas, 1980; and Havana, 1990); and once in Africa (Cairo, 1995). To some extent the congresses were a continuation of activities previously organized by the International Penal and Penitentiary Commission, the functions of which had been transferred to the United Nations by General Assembly resolution 415 (V) of 1 December 1950. However, the congresses had always had their own distinct character, organization and philosophy, reflecting the main principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations.

11. It was further acknowledged that the scope of the agendas of the crime congresses had nevertheless been broadened considerably to encompass the entire range of issues of the utmost priority that had a bearing on crime prevention and criminal justice, both nationally and internationally, thus reflecting the major concerns of the international community in that respect.

12. With the increasing number of United Nations conferences, which were concerned with the entire spectrum of economic and social issues, it was stressed that the quinquennial crime congresses had both contributed to and benefited from the experiences of other major United Nations conferences. In fact, the congresses had grown substantively and organizationally with the development of the United Nations itself, following a practical approach that managed to preserve the professional and scientific character of the congresses, without being conditioned by excessive political overtones. Accordingly, they continued to remain one of the pillars of the leadership role of the United Nations in criminal policy at the international level, as evidenced by the remarkable increase in the number of participants, especially at the most recent congress.

13. The Chairperson invited the meeting to discuss issues interactively in order to foster exchanges of views and experiences, as this was the optimal way of ensuring a comprehensive review of lessons learned from previous crime congresses as well as of developing a methodology to capture such lessons and apply them to future congresses.

14. The Chairperson welcomed general comments prior to proceeding with the discussion on each agenda item.

15. Princess Bajrakitiyabha of Thailand, head of the delegation of Thailand, in her opening statement referred to the important role the congresses had played in galvanizing high-level political will and the commitment of Member States. She observed that the congresses, however, were ready for a process of renewal involving their organization, outcome and follow-up. This involved posing a series of critical questions so that the potential of the congresses could be maximized.

16. The Intergovernmental Expert Group took note of the evolution of the crime congresses over the years in terms of both the selection of topics and the formulation of their agendas. In that respect, three phases could be identified: the first to fifth congresses, the sixth to eighth congresses and the ninth to eleventh congresses. The different features of these three phases were also reflected in the forms in which the congresses had articulated and crystallized their deliberations over the years. Whatever the nature of their final outcome, it was important to ensure appropriate review and follow-up of the recommendations. As a result of the introduction of the high-level segment as an integral part of the congresses in 2000, commitments were being made at the highest possible level of national representation and the importance of ensuring that such commitments would be honoured was stressed.

17. At the suggestion of the Chairperson, the meeting agreed to structure its discussion along the following lines:

- (a) Preparations for United Nations crime congresses;
- (b) Structure of United Nations crime congresses;
- (c) Outcome of United Nations crime congresses and follow-up thereto.

#### **A. Preparations for United Nations crime congresses**

18. The meeting discussed the evolution of the reporting lines of the crime congresses and the key role played by the preparatory body, along with the Secretariat and the host country, both in identifying substantive issues and in determining, or revising as appropriate, the rules of procedure.

19. The meeting recalled the ongoing process of revitalization of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, which since 1992 had been serving as the preparatory body for the congresses. It was pointed out that that process, coupled with the establishment of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption, would require the Commission to reconsider how to carry out its work, including in preparing for crime congresses.

20. The mandated role of the Commission as the preparatory body of the congresses was reiterated. The discussion turned to identifying possible shortcomings or obstacles faced by the Commission in discharging that function, while complying with the repeatedly stated wish of Member States and the legislative bodies of the United Nations to ensure that the agenda was focused and

streamlined. An unfocused agenda resulted inevitably in an unfocused outcome, which would create problems in relation to any follow-up. It was recalled that substantive issues discussed at previous crime congresses had constantly mirrored the concerns of the international community over various aspects of crime prevention and criminal justice and should continue to do so. Both the normative framework and the structure of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme network had thus evolved, hence capitalizing on substantive lessons learned from previous congresses.

21. The Intergovernmental Group of Experts emphasized that the earlier a decision was taken during the sessions of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice on agenda items and workshop topics, the easier it was to initiate the preparatory arrangements, in particular the development of the discussion guide and the arrangement of preparatory meetings, including consultations on the workshop programmes with the institutes of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme network, as well as with relevant non-governmental organizations, for the organization of the ancillary meetings. It was stressed that advance planning and close coordination was essential, as was intensive and extensive cooperation with all parties involved, especially the relevant counterparts of the host Government. The meeting recognized that the identification of topics was essentially a political decision entailing prioritization. This generated recurrent difficulties, either during the annual sessions of the Commission or at its intersessional meetings. However, the general view of the meeting was that with ample time, broad consultation and a spirit of cooperation, those difficulties could be overcome. In that connection, the meeting was inclined to envisage a multi-year preparatory programme accompanied by a set of criteria that could be applied in the selection of topics for the main agenda of a congress and those of the workshops.

22. It was widely acknowledged that one of the strengths of the congresses was their ability to address emerging trends, in terms of both emerging crime manifestations and best practices. To preserve and enhance that quality further, the Intergovernmental Group of Experts was of the view that attention should be paid to the nature of potential topics for the congresses depending on some salient features. In that regard, potential topics could fall into one of the following two broad categories: (a) issues that may require policymaking at the international level, including, if necessary, international standard-setting; and (b) issues with predominantly transnational aspects or dimensions that may require transnational approaches and solutions.

23. The way in which to incorporate regional concerns and perspectives into the preparation of the congresses was discussed. It was noted that despite globalization and the increasing transboundary nature of criminality, different regions of the world continued to harbour different concerns, which they wanted to see properly reflected in the consideration of various topics by the congresses. In that connection, the importance of regional preparatory meetings as a key preparatory tool for the congresses was stressed. However, a few participants questioned the utility and cost-effectiveness of regional preparatory meetings and expressed the view that regional concerns and perspectives could be brought into the preparatory process through other avenues. Emphasis was placed on the need to ensure more efficiency, better coordination and the presence of adequate expertise throughout the preparatory process. It was further suggested that the preparatory process should

begin at the national level, where a broad dialogue among government, civil society at large, local communities and the private sector should be encouraged and secured. Such a dialogue would be designed to harvest views, experiences and ideas that would be pertinent to the congress. Subsequently, the results of the dialogue should be processed through various stages of national preparations with a view to arriving at the regional or interregional level, at which point all of the different ideas and concerns would converge.

## **B. Structure of United Nations crime congresses**

24. The meeting recognized the beneficial impact of the high-level segment as an integral part of the proceedings of the congresses. It was stressed that the high-level segment had allowed ministers and other high-level officials to meet and engage in an international forum, exchange views and experiences on issues of international concern and project the outcome of that cross-fertilization exercise in their domestic environment. However, with a view to striking a balance between the political and technical components of the congresses, the meeting expressed the view that sufficient preparatory work should be done and adequate time allotted to both components at the congress itself.

25. The meeting recalled that the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, as the preparatory body for the congresses, had decided at its twelfth session to include five substantive items and six workshops on the agenda of the Eleventh Congress. While, in the end, it had been possible to schedule all of these within the organization of work, not all of the workshops could be well-focused as a result of compromises made at the Commission. In addition, the time allotted to each of the issues had been extremely limited and the workshops had been held for only one day each, as opposed to two days as had been the case during previous congresses. That had resulted in a need to compress the planned programme of the workshops at the last minute, with some workshops having to start on the afternoon of one day and continue their work on the morning of the following day.

26. The meeting commended the added value represented by the workshops, which were more focused than substantive agenda items and designed to foster informal discussions and a genuine exchange of views and expertise. The need to ensure complementarities between substantive items (to be discussed in the plenary sessions) and topics to be discussed in the workshops was strongly emphasized. The opportunity to keep agenda items within the framework of the congresses was also debated. Furthermore, frustration emerged over the fact that while the workshops were conceived to promote informal discussions, too often they had also become forums for prepared statements. However, the meeting also appreciated the fact that delegates who did not possess a full command of any of the six official languages of the United Nations needed to resort to prepared statements as the only means of expressing their views in the workshops. In an attempt to strike a balance between those needs, it was suggested to devote a segment of the workshops to official statements, while preserving the workshops' strengths.

27. The important contributions made by the non-governmental and professional community and by individual participants who had traditionally attended all the congresses was also acknowledged by the meeting. The need for participation of



intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations in the discussions concerning the declaration to be adopted by a congress was also discussed. The substantive contribution of dedicated and motivated professionals in the forefront of activities to render the criminal justice system more effective, fair and humane was commended. The ancillary meetings, traditionally held during the congresses, along with the widespread dissemination of their proceedings,<sup>2</sup> were a demonstration of such useful interaction during the congresses and of the crucial role that professional organizations could play.

### C. Outcome of United Nations crime congresses and follow-up thereto

28. It was stressed that implementation of the outcomes of the crime congresses over the years, whether institutionalized or ad hoc, was insufficient. This finding mirrored the concerns presented by the General Assembly in its resolution 57/270 B of 23 June 2003, to ensure that appropriate follow-up was given to the recommendations of United Nations conferences, while knowledge and experiences should be shared in order to build on lessons learned and best practices. This was true for both substantive and procedural issues. In that context, the ability of the high-level segment to serve as a forum for commitments to be made at a high political level, hence fostering appropriate follow-up, was reiterated.

29. Subsequently, the meeting discussed the nature of the mandated outcome of the congresses since 2000: the political declaration. While it was made clear that a declaration was not a legally binding instrument, the meeting concurred that its text should be focused and streamlined and that common views expressed and commitments made through a declaration deserved to be treated with the necessary seriousness and should be followed-up upon. The meeting, however, was also cognizant of the fact that for developing countries or countries with economies in transition, following-up on the recommendations of the congresses successfully might require the provision of technical assistance.

30. It was suggested that the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice should commence informal consultations on the text of a declaration of a congress as early as possible during its annual sessions and intersessionally, as appropriate. However, attention was drawn to the fact that invariably sufficient time was needed at the congress itself for the finalization of the text and for agreement to be reached on final issues.

31. The meeting also noted that the final declaration was not the only outcome of the congress: there were other substantive outcomes whose importance was recognized. These were (a) the report of the congress, capturing the discussions of the high-level segment as well as statements by delegates and containing a summary

---

<sup>2</sup> The meeting took note with appreciation of a publication issued by the International Scientific and Professional Advisory Council of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme network, entitled *Current Issues in International Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice: Papers from the Ancillary Meetings held within the Framework of the Eleventh United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, Bangkok, 18-25 April 2005*, as well as of the recent publications by the European Institute for Crime Prevention and Control, affiliated with the United Nations, and the Asia and Far East Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, reporting on the proceedings of two workshops held at the Eleventh Congress.

of the proceeding and recommendations of the workshops; (b) publications issued at the initiative of individual experts or entities on the outcome of workshops; and (c) publications issued at the initiative of institutes of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme network on the outcome of the ancillary meetings and workshops. The meeting was of the view that efforts should be made to encourage those publications in a more systematic manner. It was also emphasized that offering a forum for policymakers, practitioners and civil society to gather and exchange information and best practices and to build networks of contacts was also a desirable and important outcome.

32. Considerable discussion ensued on efficient and effective ways to ensure appropriate follow-up to outcomes of the congresses, including through resolutions to be presented to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, action plans, checklists, mid-term reviews by the Commission, or discussions on follow-up at future congresses. In that connection it was pointed out that outcomes, including recommendations, could be deemed as falling into two broad categories: (a) those that invited or required policy level action by appropriate bodies, such as the Commission; and (b) those that called for national level action by Governments and consequently necessitated the availability of a channel of communication through which States would be able to provide information either to the Commission or to subsequent congresses (or to both) on action taken and progress achieved. With respect to the latter category, it was stressed that there was “questionnaire fatigue” and, consequently, chronic underreporting that impeded the ability of competent bodies to obtain sufficient information and draw appropriate conclusions. Therefore, the Intergovernmental Group of Experts welcomed exploring alternative means of information-gathering, including voluntary self-assessments followed by oral reporting to the Commission under the appropriate agenda item. Such an approach would benefit from States using the template of a checklist offered by Thailand as an innovative tool that could guide them in undertaking such a detailed self-assessment and developing, as appropriate, a corresponding plan. The report developed by Thailand on the basis of the checklist is contained in a conference room paper before the Commission at its sixteenth session.

33. Suggestions were made to devise a multi-year programme of work that would begin at a congress itself and would aim at achieving a combination of two goals, as follows: (a) to provide appropriate follow-up to the recommendations of the congress; and (b) to ensure adequate, early and thorough preparation for the subsequent congress. Such a programme of work would involve the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice addressing, at each of its annual sessions, topics emerging from the congress in order to allow for their in-depth consideration with a view to determining the need for policy development. Furthermore, immediately following a congress the Commission could initiate consultations, which could extend to the intersessional period, in order to undertake deliberations that would lead to the determination of topics to be included in the agenda of the subsequent congress and, in subsequent sessions, could review and oversee the preparatory process for that congress.

34. Another issue raised in the discussion was the importance of having the broadest possible dissemination of the outcomes of the congresses in a way that would ensure that they filtered down to all levels of civil society and throughout local communities, following a pyramidal approach. Correspondingly, the

dissemination of information warranted the collection and processing of ideas and experiences for the preparation of congresses. Dissemination would bring about greater knowledge on various issues and increased appreciation of the congresses by society at large, with the added benefit of the generation of more ideas for subsequent congresses.

#### **IV. Conclusions and recommendations**

35. The Intergovernmental Group of Experts concluded that it remained of great importance to maintain the ability of congresses to tackle new and emerging trends and issues while preserving the capacity to advance consideration of mainstream crime prevention and criminal justice issues. To achieve those goals, the Group of Experts reiterated the need to ensure that future congresses, including their preparatory process, concentrated their efforts on carefully selected and sharply focused issues. In addition to being conducive to the selection of a more in-depth, structured and substantively sound combination of topics, the danger of “flooding the market” with various congress declarations and resolutions, often too long and sometimes overlapping, would be avoided. The content of a declaration should be focused and streamlined, which would also allow for a more focused and more manageable follow-up by Member States.

36. However, the Intergovernmental Group of Experts acknowledged that by being selective and reducing the number of both substantive agenda items and workshop topics, there was the risk that some Member States might feel discouraged from participating in a particular congress, given the variety of issues of concern from one country to another. Therefore, the Group of Experts recommended that the preparatory process for congresses should ensure that the selected substantive topics reflected worldwide concerns, whether emerging ones or ones of a more traditional nature.

37. The Intergovernmental Group of Experts recommended that in selecting the substantive topics for a congress, the Commission should give consideration to the following:

(a) Issues on the agenda should be of substantial concern and importance to as many States as possible from all regions;

(b) A balance should be struck between issues related to crime prevention and control on the one hand and issues related to 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.

38. The Intergovernmental Group of Experts concluded that efforts should be made to avoid workshops dealing with an array of disparate issues that might have been merged for the sake of compromise, as this would create difficulties in

maintaining an orderly debate during the discussions of the workshops, thus affecting the achievement of practical results.

39. The Intergovernmental Group of Experts recommended that 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.

40. The Intergovernmental Group of Experts recommended that there should be a limited number of workshops during a congress, with an optimal duration of two to four meetings each. Further, the Group of Experts recommended that decisions on workshop topics should take into consideration the interests of Governments and institutes or other organizations willing to make available the necessary resources to organize a workshop. Further, measures should be taken to limit the presentation and duration of prepared statements in favour of an interactive dialogue on the basis of pluralistic contributions by experts, as well as to promote case presentations when the topic lent itself to such a method. Finally, the Group of Experts recommended that the proceedings and outcomes of the workshops should be published and widely disseminated.

41. The Intergovernmental Group of Experts recommended that Governments and various organizations should be invited to make preparations for a congress well in advance, encouraging also contributions from the academic community and relevant scientific institutions. The Group of Experts reaffirmed the current practice, according to which Governments were requested by the Secretary-General to undertake early preparations by all appropriate means, including the establishment of national preparatory committees, with a view to contributing to a focused and productive discussion on the topics and active participation in the organization and conduct of the workshops, and to submit papers on the various substantive items of the agenda and the workshops expressing their national stance. In addition, the Group of Experts recommended that such committees should also be encouraged to become involved in follow-up activities, by, for example, disseminating information on the outcomes of a congress as widely as possible, including to Government officials and society at large, and in compiling information on the follow-up to recommendations reached by a congress.

42. The Intergovernmental Group of Experts recommended that a wide and effective public information programme relating to the crime congresses should be

ensured early on in their preparation. This was crucially important to keep the crime prevention and criminal justice community, as well as the general public, properly informed about current developments and results achieved by a congress.

43. The role of the host Government of a congress was recognized as a fundamental one. Most of the United Nations crime congresses would not have achieved the results they had if it had not been for the spirit of initiative, hospitality, friendship and generosity of the respective host countries. It was acknowledged that the role and functions of the host Government, during both the planning stages and the congress itself, were absolutely crucial, and could be even more so in the actual follow-up on congress recommendations, as the meeting of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts had clearly shown. It was suggested, in that connection, that the early selection of the host Government might be of help.

44. The Intergovernmental Group of Experts recommended that the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice should adopt a standing agenda item on United Nations crime congresses and that the preparatory process leading to the holding of a congress should include an early engagement of the Commission, to be reflected in a multi-year programme of work. Under this multi-year programme of work, the first session of the Commission following a congress would transmit the outcomes and recommendations of the congress and begin consultations on preparation for the subsequent congress. At the second session following a congress, the Commission, through consultations, would develop the theme and a list of substantive agenda items and topics for workshops, to be adopted at the third session of the Commission following a congress. Regional input would be sought thereafter. During the fourth session, the Commission should begin consultations on a draft declaration, which should be short and focused.

45. The Intergovernmental Group of Experts recommended that, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 57/270 B, sufficient follow-up should be given to the outcomes and recommendations of a congress. To that effect, the establishment of a four-track approach was recommended, as follows:

(a) Actions that could be undertaken by Member States and relevant organizations, such as non-governmental organizations and the institutes of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme network, to follow-up on the outcomes of the congress;

(b) The addition of a standing item on the agenda of the congress, entitled “follow-up to the outcome and recommendations of previous United Nations congresses on crime prevention and criminal justice”;

(c) Holding thematic discussions or adopting a resolution on specific issues covered by the congress by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice;

(d) Invitations to Member States to undertake and share, during the third session of the Commission following a congress, a self-assessment of their follow-up activities on the outcomes and recommendations of the Congress. In carrying out that assessment, Member States could consider, among other means, using a tool such as the template of the checklist developed by the Government of Thailand (E/CN.15/2007/6/Add.1; see para. 32 above) to provide appropriate follow-up to the outcome and recommendations of the Eleventh Congress. The Commission could

further develop the checklist before dissemination to Member States for that purpose. Such a process could help facilitate preparations for the subsequent congress as well.

46. The Intergovernmental Group of Experts recommended that the list of participants of a congress, with as many contact details as possible, should be widely disseminated and posted on the website of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, subject to the consent of the participants concerned.

47. The meeting concluded that consolidation and reliance on the successes achieved in the 50 years since the congresses began was prudent and necessary. It was, however, indisputable that the legacy of the previous congresses should be more than simply a source of inspiration and that new and innovative approaches should be explored, in particular with a view to promoting a wider follow-up to congress recommendations.

## **V. Adoption of the report and closure of the meeting**

48. At its seventh meeting, on 18 August, the Intergovernmental Group of Experts considered its draft report, prepared and introduced by the Rapporteur. At its eighth meeting, the Group adopted the report. Closing statements were made by the representative of UNODC and by a number of participants.

49. In his closing remarks, the representative of UNODC expressed his gratitude to the Government of Thailand for hosting the meeting of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts and for its continued support to the UNODC Regional Centre for East Asia and the Pacific. He also commended the valuable work of the meeting, which was conducive to a better preparation, conduct of and follow-up to future crime congresses.

50. The delegation of Brazil reiterated the offer of its Government to host the next crime congress.

## Annex I

### List of participants

#### States Members of the United Nations

Albania	Albana Dautllari
Algeria	Thouraya Benmokrane
Angola	Dulce Gomes
Azerbaijan	Aybeniz Bayramova, Elchin Nasibov, Murad I. Kazimov
Belgium	Freddy Gazan
Brazil	Edgard Telles Ribeiro, Antenor Madruga, Francisco Cannabrava, Eric do Val Lacerda Sogocio, Luis Flávio Zampronha de Oliveira
Bulgaria	Dimana Dermendjieva-Dramova
Canada	Lucie Angers, Kimberly A. Cowan
China	Kang Yu, Sun Yong, Tian Ni, Zhang Yao-jun
Cuba	Jorge Leslie Bodes Torres
Dominican Republic	Manuel Emilio Santana Montero
Egypt	Mostafa Abdel Ghaffar
El Salvador	Byron Fernando Larios López
Finland	Aarne Kinnunen, Terhi Viljanen
Germany	Pyn-An Sun
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	Ali Hajigholam Saryazdi, Esmaeil Tekeyh Sadat
Italy	Giovanni Santoro, Giuseppe Cerni
Japan	Taro Higashiyama, Ko Ikai, Tsutomu Hirokawa, Masao Tatzuzaki, Hiroaki Matsuno
Mexico	Francisco Zamora
Morocco	Hicham Touil
Nigeria	Olawale Idris Maiyegun
Norway	Else Mette Naess
Pakistan	Asim Ali Khan
Paraguay	Carlos Ortiz Barrios
Philippines	Fidel J. Exconde, Jr., George Ryan T. Hipolito
Poland	Marta Olesińska
Portugal	Luís Cunha
Republic of Korea	Hyung-hwa Cho, Jong-wook Jeong
Russian Federation	Alexander N. Elin, Alexey A. Lyzhenkov, Yuri N. Kovalko, Alexander M. J. Trofimets, Elena A. Petrova, Ludmila V. Kinchene, Sergey Detinin
Spain	José Luis Martínez Ferriz, Juan Lustres, Jose Antonio Puebla Martin
South Africa	Thukane Marry Magoro, Kalyani Pillay
Switzerland	Jacques Lauer, Daniel Derzic, Annigna Gerig

Thailand*	Princess Bajrakitiyabha, Tongthong Chandransu, Wisit Wisitsora-At, Kobkiat Kasivivat, Ruenvadee Suwanmongkol, Ampa Vanichchatchawan, Vitaya Suriyawong, Praneet Poontong, Somchart Eiamanupong, Preecha Sowanee, Niramorn Yossathorn, Piyawat Niyomrerks, Krit Kraichitti, Siriwat Phaowongsa, Chaweng Nuansaard, Supak Kangwanwongsakul, Amnach Vetayaprasit, Suda Thongpadungrojana, Krisna Bovornratanaraks, Vinai Vittavasgarnvej, Taveesak Tuchinda, Tawisak Jamegorakul, Pranee Kaoian, Virapon Panabut, Seehanat Prayoonrat, Rittee Srisawasdi, Wannachai Boonbumrong, Sooboon Vuthiwong, Rewadee Sakulpanich, Bamrung Tanchittiwatana, Achara Chongsitthimahakul, Surachai Nira Ampika Leelapojanaporn, Orapong Soontornwesn, Yossawan Boriboonthana, Krerkkai Ekabhot, Sureeprapha Thaivej, Suwanee Khamman, Charin Panyasiri, Nuntia Ruangjaroon, Witchan Chanachaiwibunwat
Tunisia	Ridha Ben Amor
Ukraine	Tetiana Shorstka
United Arab Emirates	Abdull Rahim Yousif Al Awadi, Younis Yousif Alredha, Obaid Bin Tris Al Qemzy, Ahmed Ebrahim Al-Hosani
United Republic of Tanzania	Peter Lokaji Kivuyo, Paul James Makelele
United States of America	Howard Solomon
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	Leoncio Guerra

**United Nations Secretariat**

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

**Affiliated regional institutes and associated institutes**

Australian Institute of Criminology, Asia and Far East Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders

**Observers participating in their personal capacity**

Minoru Shikita, Eduardo Vetere

---

\* A number of observers from Thailand also participated in the meeting.



---

## Annex II

### List of documents

<b>Document</b>	<b>Title or description</b>
A/CONF.203/15	Report of the Secretary-General of the Eleventh United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice on fifty years of United Nations congresses on crime prevention and criminal justice: past accomplishments and future prospects
Working paper on agenda item 4	Review of previous United Nations congresses on crime prevention and criminal justice
Working paper on agenda item 5	Lessons learned from previous congresses
Working paper on agenda item 6	Capitalizing on lessons learned and methodology for capturing such lessons for future congresses
	Proposal submitted by Egypt for discussion at the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Lessons Learned from the United Nations Congresses on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice
	Proposal for consideration submitted by the International Scientific and Professional Advisory Council of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme network

---