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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

The present report is submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution [73/184](#) and provides a brief overview of the work of United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in the follow-up to the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. It includes information on the preparations, both ongoing and envisioned, for the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. The preparations include the organization of the regional preparatory meetings for the Congress and the finalization of a discussion guide for those meetings and for the Congress itself. Finally, the report contains information on action required of the Commission in reviewing the preparations for the Fourteenth Congress.

* [E/CN.15/2019/1](#).



I. Introduction

1. The present report has been submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution [73/184](#), 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”, in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to ensure proper follow-up to the resolution and to report thereon to the Assembly through the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its twenty-eighth session.

II. Background

A. Follow-up to the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

2. In ensuring appropriate follow-up to the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) continued its work under the Global Programme for the Implementation of the Doha Declaration: Towards the Promotion of a Culture of Lawfulness. The activities under the Global Programme 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 Agenda.

3. The Global Programme comprises four specific, interrelated components: strengthening judicial integrity and preventing corruption in justice systems; fostering prisoners’ rehabilitation and social integration; preventing youth crime through sports; and the Education for Justice initiative.

4. Since the inception of the Global Programme in 2016, more than 29,600 stakeholders, primarily judges, prison practitioners, academics, teachers, sports coaches, representatives of relevant non-governmental organizations and an increasing number of children and young people in more than 190 countries have benefited from the activities carried out under the Global Programme. This figure includes more than 13,900 people from 183 countries who have been involved in a multitude of capacity-building activities, including conferences, workshops and training events. The Global Programme has also provided country-specific direct technical assistance to 34 countries. An additional 179,000 people have been reached as a result of the impact that activities have had after their completion. More information will be included in the report of the Executive Director on the follow-up to 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 Congress (see para. 9, subpara. (b)).

5. The implementation of the Global Programme continues at an increased pace and several initiatives lie ahead, in particular the first Education for Justice international high-level conference on education for the rule of law, to be held at UNODC headquarters in Vienna from 7 to 9 October 2019, and the second high-level conference of the Global Judicial Integrity Network, to be held in Doha in November 2019.

B. Venue and dates of the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

6. Pursuant to the offer of the Government of Japan to act as host to the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, the General Assembly, in its resolution [73/184](#), 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 would 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. In its resolution 72/192, the General Assembly had decided that the main theme of the Fourteenth Congress would be “Advancing crime prevention, criminal justice and the rule of law: towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda”.

C. Outcome of the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

7. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 56/119, each United Nations congress on crime prevention and criminal justice is to adopt a single declaration. Moreover, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 73/184, the Fourteenth Congress is to adopt a single declaration to be submitted to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice for its consideration. That declaration will be submitted for the consideration of the Commission at its twenty-ninth session, in 2020.

8. In discharging its mandate as the preparatory body of the Crime Congress, the Commission, at its twenty-eighth session, may wish to begin focused and inclusive consultations in order to facilitate the preparation of a structured and well-defined draft declaration, with a view to replicating the successful practice followed at the Thirteenth Congress of adopting the declaration during the high-level segment at the opening day of the Fourteenth Congress.

D. Documentation

9. In its resolution 73/184, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to prepare a plan for the documentation for the Fourteenth Congress, in consultation with the extended Bureau of the Commission. Accordingly, the Secretariat circulated to the extended Bureau the provisional documentation forecast for the Fourteenth Congress. That forecast is shown below:

- (a) Basic documents:
 - (i) Reports of the five regional preparatory meetings for the Fourteenth Congress;
 - (ii) Working papers on each of the substantive items on the provisional agenda for the Fourteenth Congress;¹

¹ In its resolution 72/192, the General Assembly approved the following provisional agenda for the Fourteenth Congress, finalized by the Commission at its twenty-sixth session:

1. Opening of the Congress.
2. Organizational matters.
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.

- (iii) Working papers on each of the topics of the workshops to be held as part of the Fourteenth Congress;²
- (b) Background documents:
 - (i) Discussion guide on the main theme, the substantive items on the provisional agenda and the workshop topics of the Fourteenth Congress ([A/CONF.234/PM.1](#));
 - (ii) Report on the state of crime and criminal justice worldwide;
 - (iii) Report of the Executive Director on the follow-up to the Doha Declaration;
 - (iv) Report of the Executive Director on advancing criminal justice in the context of Sustainable Development Goal 16.

E. Rules of procedure

10. Rule 63 of the rules of procedure for United Nations congresses on crime prevention and criminal justice provides as follows:

After the completion of each Congress, the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice shall make appropriate recommendations to the Economic and Social Council for such amendments to the present rules as it may deem necessary.

11. The rules of procedure will be made available to the Commission at its twenty-eighth session. In the absence of any amendments, the Fourteenth Congress will be conducted in accordance with the current rules of procedure, to be adopted by the Fourteenth Congress under item 2, sub-item (b), of the provisional agenda, supplemented by the guidelines contained in paragraph 2 of General Assembly resolution [56/119](#).

III. Regional preparatory meetings for the Fourteenth Congress

12. In its resolution [73/184](#), the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to proceed with the organization of the four regional preparatory meetings for the Fourteenth Congress and to make available the necessary resources for the participation of the least developed countries in those meetings, in accordance with past practice, as well as making a special effort to organize the regional preparatory meeting for European and other States so as to benefit from their input.

13. Also in its resolution [73/184](#), the General Assembly urged Governments to actively participate in the regional preparatory meetings, where appropriate, and to invite their representatives to examine the substantive items on the agenda and the topics of the workshops of the Fourteenth Congress and to make action-oriented recommendations for consideration by the Congress.

14. At the time of submission of the present report, the following regional preparatory meetings had been held:

- (a) Asia and Pacific Regional Preparatory Meeting, held in Bangkok from 22 to 24 January 2019 ([A/CONF.234/RPM.1/1](#));

² In its resolution [72/192](#), the General Assembly decided that the following issues would be considered in workshops within the framework of the Fourteenth Congress:

- (a) Evidence-based crime prevention: statistics, indicators and evaluation in support of successful practices;
- (b) Reducing reoffending: identifying risks and developing solutions;
- (c) Education and youth engagement as key to making societies resilient to crime;
- (d) Current crime trends, recent developments and emerging solutions, in particular new technologies as means for and tools against crime.

(b) Latin American and Caribbean Regional Preparatory Meeting, held in Santiago from 5 to 7 February 2019 ([A/CONF.234/RPM.3/1](#)).

15. At the time of submission of the present report, the following regional preparatory meetings were scheduled to be held:

(a) Western Asia Regional Preparatory Meeting, to be held in Beirut from 26 to 28 March 2019 (report to be issued as [A/CONF.234/RPM.2/1](#));

(b) African Regional Preparatory Meeting, to be held in Addis Ababa from 9 to 11 April 2019 (report to be issued as [A/CONF.234/RPM.4/1](#));

(c) European Regional Preparatory Meeting, to be held in Vienna, from 23 to 25 April 2019 (report to be issued as [A/CONF.234/RPM.5/1](#)).

16. The regional preparatory meetings for the Asia and Pacific region and the Latin American and Caribbean region made action-oriented recommendations for consideration by the Fourteenth Congress. The reports of the regional preparatory meetings will be brought to the attention of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its twenty-eighth session.

17. The representative of Kazakhstan informed the Asia and Pacific Regional Preparatory Meeting that his Government was willing to host the Fifteenth Congress in Astana in 2025.

IV. Discussion guide for the regional preparatory meetings and the Fourteenth Congress

18. In its resolution [73/184](#), the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to finalize the discussion guide in a timely manner, taking into account the recommendations of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, as well as additional comments and feedback from Member States, in order to enable the regional preparatory meetings for the Fourteenth Congress to be held as early as possible in 2019.

19. Having brought the draft discussion guide to the attention of the Commission at its twenty-seventh session, the Secretariat finalized its content, based on the comments received, translated it into all the official languages of the United Nations and made it available to the regional preparatory meetings for the Fourteenth Congress as part of their documentation ([A/CONF.234/PM.1](#)).

V. Other substantive and procedural preparatory arrangements for the Fourteenth Congress

20. In its resolution [73/184](#), the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to appoint a Secretary-General and an Executive Secretary of the Fourteenth Congress, in accordance with past practice, to perform their functions under the rules of procedure for United Nations congresses on crime prevention and criminal justice. In line with the practice followed for previous congresses, the Executive Director of UNODC has been appointed as Secretary-General of the Congress and the Director of the UNODC Division for Treaty Affairs, has been appointed Executive Secretary.

21. The host country's logo design for the Fourteenth Congress was chosen in a public poll on the social media platform Twitter in November 2018. The host country website for the Fourteenth Congress was officially launched in February 2019, with the English version planned for the end of March. The website includes all

substantive, procedural and logistical information on the Congress and will be updated regularly in the lead-up to the event.³

22. The UNODC website on the Fourteenth Congress is fully operational and all related documentation is posted there as soon as it becomes available.⁴

23. A briefing about the status of preparations for the Fourteenth Congress and action to be taken in that regard by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its twenty-eighth session was given to the Commission at its reconvened twenty-seventh session. Regular updates are provided to the meeting of the extended Bureau of the twenty-eighth session of the Commission.

24. A briefing for permanent missions on the preparations for the Fourteenth Congress was held by the Secretariat, together with representatives of the host country, in New York in October 2018 at the time of the consideration of the agenda item on crime prevention and criminal justice by the Third Committee of the General Assembly.

VI. Future action by the Secretariat

25. At the invitation of the Government of Japan, UNODC undertook a planning mission in July 2018. The purposes of the planning mission were to establish contact with the competent authorities of the host country and to exchange views on the most practical and cost-effective ways to ensure efficient substantive and organizational preparations for the Congress; to visit the proposed Congress venue in Kyoto and ascertain how the facilities could be used in an efficient manner to meet the requirements of the Congress; to provide the host country authorities with information on United Nations policy and practice in organizing conferences away from the established headquarters of United Nations entities; and to review other arrangements required for the Congress.

26. The consultations between the host country and UNODC for the finalization and signing of the arrangement for the Fourteenth Congress will be completed in due course. The arrangement will provide the legal framework and will contain detailed administrative and logistical arrangements and requirements for the Congress, including the estimated differential cost of the event, which will be borne by the Government of Japan. If required, a second planning mission to Kyoto will be scheduled to take place in the fourth quarter of 2019.

27. In the second half of 2019, the Secretariat will work on the documentation for each of the items on the provisional agenda and the workshop topics of the Congress.

28. Informal consultations for the formulation of the draft text of a declaration in advance of the Fourteenth Congress will commence in the fourth quarter of 2019, in close cooperation with the extended Bureau of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and the focal point of the host country in Vienna. Consultations with other organizations and entities will also take place, as appropriate, in order to seek their support in preparing the Fourteenth Congress. Those organizations and entities will include relevant entities of the United Nations system; intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations involved in areas related to those to be discussed at the Congress; and institutes of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme network.

29. In November 2019, an information circular will be sent to all Member States, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and institutes of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme network announcing the dates, venue and provisional agenda of the Congress. The official invitations will be sent in January 2020.

³ www.moj.go.jp/KYOTOCONGRESS2020.

⁴ www.unodc.org/congress.

VII. Conclusions and recommendations, including action required of the Commission

30. The Commission may wish to consider and review the follow-up given to the Thirteenth Congress through the ongoing Global Programme for the Implementation of the Doha Declaration. It may also wish to advise UNODC on ways in which it could continue to share its substantive expertise with Member States and give them support by implementing its programmes further to the outcomes of all the United Nations crime congresses.

31. In its resolution 73/184, the General Assembly requested the Commission to accord sufficient time at its twenty-eighth session to reviewing the progress made in the preparations for the Fourteenth Congress, to finalize in a timely manner all outstanding organizational and substantive arrangements and to make its recommendations to the General Assembly through the Economic and Social Council.

32. In that regard, the following actions are required of the Commission:

(a) Approving the documentation for the Fourteenth Congress listed in paragraph 9 above;

(b) Making a decision as to whether any amendment to the rules of procedure for the Fourteenth Congress is needed;

(c) Making recommendations on the public information and promotional activities for the Fourteenth Congress, such activities to be undertaken, in a timely manner, in order to ensure that Governments, United Nations entities, intergovernmental organizations and civil society experts are fully involved in the preparations for the Congress and thereby encouraged to actively participate in it.