Asia and Pacific Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice
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Draft report

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Addendum

II. Conclusions and recommendations

1. The Secretary of the Asia and Pacific Regional Preparatory Meeting recalled that the main theme, agenda items and workshops of the Fourteenth Congress had been carefully identified by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and adopted by the General Assembly. In that regard, she highlighted that, building on the success of the Thirteenth Congress and in accordance with General Assembly resolution 71/206, all efforts had been made to ensure that the overall theme, the agenda items and workshop topics were streamlined. The Secretary reminded participants that, since the main theme was designed to serve as an umbrella for the substantive agenda items and workshop topics and for the discussions under those that would take place at the Congress, they were invited to engage in a general, aspirational discussion with regard to the relationship between the main theme and the substantive agenda items of the Congress, as well as the policy implications of that relationship. She explained that, in order to facilitate the preparations for and discussions at the regional preparatory meetings and the Congress itself, the discussion guide had clustered the agenda items that dealt with issues of broad and global importance together with the relevant workshop topics, on the understanding that the latter were designed to cover more specific topics and draw on practical experiences and approaches.

2. Presentations were delivered by representatives of the Secretariat introducing the main theme, substantive agenda items and workshop topics.

Summary of deliberations

3. The mutually reinforcing relation between the rule of law, crime prevention and criminal justice and sustainable development was emphasized, as particularly reflected, through the interrelationship between Goal 16 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Agenda and the other relevant Goals and Targets, particularly Goals: 4, 5, 8, 10, 11 and 17.

4. The meeting recognized that the overall theme of the Fourteenth Crime Congress would build on the achievements of the Thirteenth Crime Congress and its outcome document, the Doha Declaration. It was noted that since the adoption of the Doha Declaration, there had been a growing understanding of the interconnectedness of the rule of law and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The meeting emphasized that the Fourteenth Crime Congress offered a unique opportunity to Member States to review their efforts in the area of crime prevention and criminal justice in charting the way forward to advance their efforts in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. However, it was also argued that linking the crime prevention and criminal justice agenda to the entire sustainable development agenda might prove to be an unrealistic endeavour.

5. Moreover, it was noted that since the adoption of the Doha Declaration, a number of multilateral documents had been developed, such the 2030 agenda on sustainable development, the UNGASS on the World Drug Problem and the Global Compact for Migration.

Outcome of deliberations

6. Stemming from the deliberations, the following recommendations were made reflecting the regional perspective:

   (a) Prioritize the essential crime prevention and criminal justice elements needed to advance the implementation of the Sustainable Development Agenda: through “investing in skills” by enhancing the capacities of practitioners in the entire spectrum of the criminal justice system, while reflecting on impact with a view to fostering the respect of the general public towards the rule of law and its enforcement, thereby relying on “methodologies” that strengthen the cooperation among practitioners;

   (b) Promote an integrated, inclusive and comprehensive approach, with a focus on people, particularly children and youth, including community-based policies, towards promoting the rule of law and fostering a culture of lawfulness;

   (c) Enhance cooperation among governmental authorities and other relevant stakeholders including the United Nations and other intergovernmental organizations, private sector and civil society, thereby pursuing an intersectoral and multidisciplinary approach to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Agenda;

   (d) Support UNODC in continuing its role in “operationalizing” the outcome documents of the crime congresses and promoting the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, through the provision of technical assistance, capacity-building and the facilitation of the exchange of good practices and experience in the area of crime prevention and criminal justice;

   (e) Strengthen the role of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice to continue advancing the discussions on the relationship between the rule of law, crime prevention and criminal justice and the Sustainable Development Agenda, including by continuing its substantive contributions to the thematic review of the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals by the High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development;
(f) Enhance cooperation with the Institutes-members of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme Network to further promote research in the field of rule of law, crime prevention and criminal justice and their links to sustainable development, with a view to strengthening the sharing of information, good practices and lessons learned on crime related threats and challenges, as well as ways and means to address them in an effective manner.

B. Substantive items and workshops

1. Comprehensive strategies for crime prevention towards social and economic development (agenda item 3); and evidence-based crime prevention: statistics, indicators and evaluation in support of successful practices (workshop 1)

Summary of deliberations

7. It was recognized that criminal justice systems and the institutions comprising them had a critical role to play in promoting the rule of law; and for that infrastructure to operate effectively, the meeting accorded high priority to investing in training and capacity-building of practitioners, including prosecutors, police officers and probation and correction officers. In that regard, cooperation and coordination among these practitioners was essential to address complex crimes at the national, regional and international levels.

8. The meeting emphasized the importance of integrating gender perspective into crime prevention and criminal justice measures and policies.

9. Furthermore, the importance of community-based policing, which could play a key role in promoting crime prevention strategies at the local level was noted. Such a goal could not be accomplished in isolation of the society at large, and without the engagement of youth in common activities with the police which in turn fosters public confidence in and cooperation with law enforcement.

10. It was underlined that educational, social and health measures should be utilized not only to advance crime prevention efforts, but to also address some of the causes of criminality. Further, it was stressed that education was playing a catalyst role within integrated crime prevention approaches. In this regard, the meeting emphasized the need to advance national, regional and international efforts to promote education and utilize sport programmes to empower children and youth to assume their inherent roles as agents of positive change.

11. Some participants highlighted the importance of a “culture of lawfulness” within the context of crime prevention, which focuses on fostering trust and respect among the general public for the law and its enforcement. It was also recognized that national strategic plans that included educational and family-related approaches had contributed to strengthening crime prevention.

12. It was further noted that the evolving nature of gang-related violence and other urban crime threats require specialized and targeted crime prevention approaches, particularly to prevent the involvement and recruitment of youth, and that UNODC could support Member States in analysing recent trends and good practices to address gang-related violence and urban crime.

13. In preventing and addressing human trafficking, the importance of a victim-centred approach to crime prevention and criminal justice measures was highlighted. In that regard, prioritizing the dignity, human rights, safety and well-being of victims and survivors was also stressed.

14. Importance of evidence-based crime prevention, including by strengthening data collection, was emphasized. It was noted that data collection should be in accordance with the requirements of domestic legislation to ensure proper implementation.
15. It was also noted that the Fourteenth Congress should be utilized to highlight innovative and creative practices in designing and implementing integrated and diversified crime prevention programmes.

16. It was suggested that a shift to a new model of law enforcement operations from a “police force” to a “police service” approach needed to be considered. In this regard it was further underlined that the Fourteenth Crime Congress examine this approach in more substantive detail to help Member States and civil society share research, good practices and lessons learned.

Outcome of deliberations

17. Stemming from the deliberations, the following recommendations were made reflecting the regional perspective:

(a) Strengthen the capacity of law enforcement officials through training. Such training was recommended by the meeting as key, not only to address the needs at the national level, but also to strengthen cooperation among practitioners at the regional and international levels, as well as to address new modi operandi of criminal groups and the advancement in information technology;

(b) Strengthen and develop a comprehensive and integrated approach to address access by women to justice and to redress, as well as enhance the representation of women in the criminal justice system, and make gender-specific measures an integral part of any crime prevention and criminal justice policy;

(c) Consider ways to learn from good practices in preventing and fighting human trafficking;

(d) Enhance cooperation among the ministries of interior, justice, sport and education to provide children and youth with educational and sports programmes that equip them with the necessary knowledge, values and skills to contribute to building peaceful, just and inclusive societies for sustainable development. The utilization of polytechnic educational programmes was also recommended as a good practice to prevent crime and violence;

(e) Promote effective national responses and enhance international cooperation to address the persistent and evolving threats related to the world drug problem;

(f) Improve data collection methodologies, quantitatively as well as qualitatively, and develop new ways to enhance cooperation in the field of crime statistics, so that Member States can deepen their collective ability to understand the global crime trends. In that regard, strengthen the capacity of Member States to collect and analyse crime-related data, including through support provided by UNODC.

2. Integrated approaches to challenges facing the criminal justice system (agenda item 4); and reducing reoffending: identifying risks and developing solutions (workshop 2)

Summary of deliberations

18. It was noted that independent and transparent criminal justice institutions are critical to upholding the rule of law and combating corruption; further, effective and accountable law enforcement and justice services were essential components of good governance and stability.

19. Reference was made to the usefulness of pursuing integrated criminal justice approaches, which were based upon: a strengthening of collaboration to build trust within and between relevant agencies and to enhance formal and informal cooperation at all levels; the establishment of internal information-sharing procedures and systems; and the promotion of collaboration between police and criminal justice agencies with external actors, including community service providers, data collection experts, media and civil society.
20. Some participants emphasized that the capacity of criminal justice institutions, particularly, that of correctional institutions, was a key prerequisite to find effective responses against the risk of reoffending. Inter-agency cooperation between criminal justice institutions and other relevant agencies as well as cooperation with private sector were equally important to that effect. It was further noted that vocational training in correctional facilities was important for the smooth social reintegration of offenders. Upon release from prison, timely job placement for offenders was deemed essential for their reintegration and could only work with the support of employers who were supportive to employ ex-offenders. Good national practices, in this regard, ranging from cooperative employers and volunteer probation officers to youth participation and partnerships in social reintegration and rehabilitation efforts, were reported.

21. It was also noted that the relevant workshop of the Congress would provide an opportunity to discuss multi-stakeholder approaches to the issue of rehabilitation of offenders. Therefore, it would be useful to devote further efforts to ensure the presence of expertise from different regional groups for more constructive sharing of information, experiences and good practices.


23. It was noted that the special needs of foreign prisoners should be addressed in line with international standards and bearing in mind the United Nations Model Agreement on the Transfer of Foreign Prisoners and Recommendations on the treatment of foreign prisoners.

Outcome of deliberations

24. Stemming from the deliberations, the following recommendations were made reflecting the regional perspective:

(a) Examine best practices in combating human trafficking through a victim-centred approach, and consider methods of applying such emerging best practices to protect and assist all victims of crime, with full respect for their human rights and dignity, and provide the foundation upon which victims become survivors;

(b) Design rehabilitation and social integration plans for offenders based on the assessment of their needs and the risks they encounter, including their personal history, mental condition, family environment and availability of social contacts;

(c) Pursue more effective implementation of the United Nations standards and norms, including the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the “Nelson Mandela Rules”), the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for Non-custodial Measures (the “Tokyo Rules”), the United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders (“the Bangkok Rules”) and the United Nations Model Strategies and Practical Measures on the Elimination of Violence against Children, to promote human-centric and gender-based rehabilitation and reintegration programmes, as well as the use of non-custodial measures, including restorative justice; and update, as appropriate, the UNODC Handbook on Restorative Justice Programmes;

(d) Share best practices for preventing youth and adults from re-entering or entering the criminal justice system in the first place, engaging in criminal activities and disseminating evidence-based best practices to reduce the rate of recidivism, such as vocational training, educational coursework, faith-based programmes, and prison employment opportunities;

(e) Explore best practices for whole-of-government approaches to reducing recidivism through: analysing the latest research on evidence-based correctional practices that help inmates re-enter communities as productive, law-abiding citizens; sharing examples of programmes that support prisoner rehabilitation and social reintegration, both within prison settings and in the community; enhancing
collaboration between correctional systems, other government agencies, civil society, and community organizations to address a range of social and economic factors that affect recidivism rates; and considering ways to improve training and capacity-building for staff at all levels of a correctional system, including administrative and management officials, in order to manage offenders and support rehabilitation and reintegration;

(f) Share experiences and best practices regarding the use of alternatives to incarceration at all stages of the criminal justice process, while also protecting the safety of the community.

C. Other issues

25. Stemming from the deliberations, the following recommendations were made reflecting the regional perspective, with regards to the structure and substance of the future Kyoto Declaration:

(a) Build on the successful experience of the Thirteenth Crime Congress, it was suggested that the preparatory process for the formulation of the future Kyoto Declaration be inclusive and open; and that relevant deliberations be carried out in a timely manner, following the good practice of the Doha Declaration, with a view to facilitating the negotiation and adoption of the future Kyoto Declaration at the opening of the Fourteenth Crime Congress, during its high-level segment;

(b) Elaborate the future Kyoto Declaration as a short and concise document that reflects a strong political message. Ensure that the future Kyoto Declaration is aimed at bridging the gap between political commitments and effective implementation on the ground, in relation not only to addressing new and evolving crime challenges, but also traditional threats and persistent crime challenges, including transnational organized crime and corruption. It was noted that investigating and prosecuting crime was becoming more complicated due to its transnational nature and the advancements in information technology;

(c) Promote the maintenance of a continuum between the Doha Declaration and the future Kyoto Declaration. In more concrete terms, the future Kyoto Declaration could use the Doha Declaration as a point of departure, and further be structured around targeted, operational and action-oriented recommendations and undertakings. In that regard, promote UNODC’s role in translating policy directives into concrete actions through supporting Member States in implementing the outcome of the Crime Congress;

(d) Strengthen the role of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice as the policymaking body of the United Nations with prime responsibility for crime prevention and criminal justice matters in advancing the implementation of the outcome of the crime congresses, in particular the future Kyoto Declaration, by providing a forum to share experiences, lessons learned and good practices in translating policy directives contained in these outcome documents into meaningful action at the national, regional and international levels.