



Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

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Draft report

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I. Background and preparations for the Congress

1. The Thirteenth 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, as well as in pursuance of Assembly resolutions 46/152, annex, 56/119, 62/173, 63/193 and 64/180.

2. In its resolution 65/230, the General Assembly welcomed with appreciation the offer of the Government of Qatar to act as host to the Thirteenth Congress. In its resolution 67/184, the Assembly decided that the main theme of the Thirteenth Congress should be “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”. In its resolution 68/185, the Assembly decided to hold the Thirteenth Congress in Doha, from 12 to 19 April 2015, with pre-Congress consultations to be held on 11 April 2015, and decided that the high-level segment of the Thirteenth 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 themes of the Congress and to enhance the possibility of generating useful feedback. In the same resolution, the Assembly reiterated its invitation to Member States to be represented at the Thirteenth Congress at the highest possible level and to play an active role in the Congress.

3. In its resolution 67/184, the General Assembly decided on the four issues to be considered by the workshops to be held within the framework of the Thirteenth 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 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. In cooperation with the host Governments, the United Nations regional economic and social commissions and the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme network of institutes, four regional preparatory meetings for the Thirteenth Congress were held in 2014: (a) the Asia and Pacific Regional Preparatory Meeting, held in Bangkok from 22 to 24 January 2014; (b) the Western Asian Regional Preparatory Meeting, held in Doha from 3 to 5 February 2014; (c) the Latin American and Caribbean Regional Preparatory Meeting, held in San José from 19 to 21 February 2014; and (d) the African Regional Preparatory Meeting, held in Addis Ababa from 9 to 11 April 2014.

II. Attendance and organization of work

A. Date and venue of the Congress

5. The Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice was held in Doha from 12 to 19 April 2015, pursuant to General Assembly resolutions 65/230, 67/184 and 68/185.

B. Pre-Congress consultations

6. In conformity with the practice followed at United Nations special conferences and with General Assembly resolution 56/119, informal pre-Congress consultations were held on 11 April 2015. Participation in the consultations was open to representatives of all States invited to the Congress. A number of recommendations on the organization of work of the Congress were agreed upon in the course of the consultations (see A/CONF.222/L.1).

C. Attendance

[...]

D. Opening of the Congress

7. The Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice was officially opened by the Secretary-General of the Congress and Executive Director of UNODC, Yury Fedotov, in the presence of His Highness Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani, the Amir of Qatar.

8. After his election, the President of the Thirteenth Congress, Abdullah bin Nasser bin Khalifa Al-Thani, Prime Minister and Minister for the Interior of the State of Qatar, addressed the Congress. In his statement, he welcomed all participants and thanked the Secretariat for the preparations for the Thirteenth Congress. He emphasized that crime and insecurity had led to increases in violence and corruption worldwide, which had hindered economic and social development. He highlighted the links between sustainable development and crime

prevention and criminal justice measures. He stressed the importance of regional and international cooperation, and urged States to adopt clear policies and standards to protect human rights and fundamental freedoms. He emphasized the importance of partnerships among Governments, the private sector and civil society organizations for the effective fight against challenges relating to crime. He called for the integration of crime prevention and criminal justice into the broader United Nations agenda, as well as the post-2015 development agenda. He also called for ending the culture of crime, and noted his appreciation for the support of the Secretary-General in promoting the international conventions and agreements pertaining to crime prevention and criminal justice. He announced a new initiative by Qatar to establish a fund for education and professional development for the benefit of displaced children and youth who were victims of conflicts in the region. Finally, he urged States to view the Doha Declaration as a collective voice of the Congress in setting high standards for crime prevention and criminal justice, as well as for sustainable development.

9. The Secretary-General of the United Nations addressed the Congress and noted the importance of the congresses as the world's largest and most diverse gatherings of Governments, civil society, academia and experts in crime prevention and criminal justice. He noted, in that regard, that for 60 years the United Nations congresses had helped shape criminal justice policies and strengthen international cooperation against the global threat of transnational organized crime. He stressed that crime threatened peace and security, hindered development, violated human rights, further enabled corruption to thrive, undermined good governance and the rule of law, devastated individuals and communities, and particularly affected weak and vulnerable groups in society. He stressed that the post-2015 development agenda required the recognition of the centrality of the rule of law and human rights to sustainable development. He pointed out that development and human rights depended on relevant legal frameworks and Governments that upheld the law. Moreover, he pointed out that international cooperation and coordination were critical elements of effective counter-responses, particularly in areas such as combating transnational organized crime and terrorism and addressing the links between them. He encouraged Member States that had not yet done so to ratify or accede to relevant international drug, crime, corruption and terrorism instruments, and to support UNODC in its efforts to provide assistance in their implementation. He pointed out that cybercrime had become a business of billions of dollars a year in online fraud, identity theft and lost intellectual property, and asked for enhanced efforts to address it. He further referred to the United Nations plan of action on preventing violent extremism and to the upcoming high-level thematic debate of the General Assembly on how to counter increasing violent extremism and terrorism.

10. A documentary on the Doha Youth Forum was presented to Congress participants. The Forum, the first in the history of United Nations crime congresses, was held from 7 to 9 April 2015 and organized by the Qatar Foundation under the auspices of the Ministry of Interior of Qatar. It brought together 123 students from a wide variety of backgrounds and disciplines representing over 30 nationalities.

11. Three participants of the Doha Youth Forum presented the Doha Youth Forum Statement, which included recommendations for global, regional and national action. The Secretary-General of the United Nations received the statement from

the three participants of the Forum and handed it over to the President of the Thirteenth Congress.

12. The Secretary-General of the Thirteenth Congress introduced a documentary film on the sixtieth anniversary of the United Nations crime congresses. The film presented a brief historical overview of the previous 12 congresses and the contribution of each to the shaping of policies and the setting of international standards in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice.

E. Election of the President and of other officers

13. At its 1st plenary meeting, on 12 April 2015, the Thirteenth Congress elected by acclamation Sheikh Abdullah bin Nasser bin Khalifa Al-Thani, Prime Minister and Minister for the Interior of Qatar, as President of the Congress.

14. At the same meeting, the Congress also elected by acclamation Roberto Rafael Campa Cifrián (Mexico) as Chair of Committee I, Matti Tapani Joutsen (Finland) as Chair of Committee II and the following States as Vice-Presidents: Algeria, Egypt, Morocco, Namibia, Nigeria, South Africa and Tunisia (African States); China, Indonesia, Japan, Kuwait, Lebanon and Thailand (Asia-Pacific States); Azerbaijan, Croatia and Latvia (Eastern European States); Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala and Mexico (Latin American and Caribbean States); and Australia, Canada, Finland, Germany, Italy and Netherlands (Western European and other States). Tebogo Joseph Seokolo (South Africa) was elected as First Vice-President and Sintija Oskalne (Latvia) as Rapporteur-General.

15. At its 1st meeting, on 13 April, Committee I elected by acclamation Mark Rutgers van der Loeff (Netherlands) as its Vice-Chair and Jeanne Mrad (Lebanon) as its Rapporteur.

16. At its 1st meeting, on 14 April, Committee II elected by acclamation Antonio Roberto Castellanos Lopez (Guatemala) as its Vice-Chair and Naoki Sugano (Japan) as its Rapporteur.

F. Adoption of the agenda

17. At its 1st plenary meeting, on 12 April, the Congress adopted the provisional agenda (A/CONF.222/1) as approved by the General Assembly in its resolution 67/184. 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. Successes and challenges in implementing comprehensive crime prevention and criminal justice policies and strategies to promote the rule of law at the national and international levels, and to support sustainable development.
- 4. International cooperation, including at the regional level, to combat transnational organized crime.
- 5. Comprehensive and balanced approaches to prevent and adequately respond to new and emerging forms of transnational crime.
- 6. National approaches to public participation in strengthening crime prevention and criminal justice.
- 7. Adoption of the report of the Congress.

G. Organization of work

18. At its 1st plenary meeting, on 12 April, in accordance with the recommendations of the pre-Congress consultations held on 11 April (A/CONF.222/L.1), the Congress approved its organization of work.

H. Adoption of the rules of procedure

19. At its 1st plenary meeting, on 12 April, the Congress adopted by consensus its rules of procedure (A/CONF.222/2).

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

20. At its 1st plenary meeting, on 12 April, in accordance with rule 4 of the rules of procedure (A/CONF.222/2) and as proposed by the President, the Congress decided that the following States should be appointed members of the Credentials Committee: Bangladesh, Brazil, China, Denmark, Jamaica, Namibia, Russian Federation, Senegal and United States of America.
