Agenda Item 5

Substantive items on the agenda and the topics of the workshops of the 14th Congress
(c) 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 (agenda item 5 of the Congress); and education and youth engagement as key to making societies resilient to crime (topic for workshop 3)

- This agenda item and its corresponding workshop topics examines the following:
  - Goal 16 of the Sustainable Development Agenda calls for the promotion of peaceful and inclusive societies and for providing access to justice for all.
  - Criminal justice institutions have multiple accountability responsibilities: accountable to the protection of society, in adherence with the principles of the rule of law and human rights, and accountable to the individual members of the society.
  - Social and educational approaches to promote the rule of law and foster a culture of lawfulness
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• Access to justice for all:

✓ Access to justice requires a multidimensional approach by Member States that involves all actors in the criminal justice system, paying particular attention to measures that respect and protect the rights of vulnerable members of society and groups with special needs in the criminal justice system, such as: women, children and victims of crime.

✓ What is the role played by crime prevention and criminal justice reform in ensuring just and fair access to justice for all. Assess the current system → root causes of the obstacles limiting access to justice? → does it require a reform? → measures to ensure that they meet their multiple accountability responsibilities.

✓ Thinking of the most vulnerable: Children. Child-centred criminal justice systems and the capacity to deliver services in a fair, equitable, effective and child-sensitive manner. (women, elderlies, vulnerable members, physically and mentally disabled)
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• Building effective, accountable, impartial and inclusive institutions:

✓ Accountability within the criminal justice system requires a multifaceted approach → 1) promoting accountability at the institutional level, 2) criminal justice professionals must maintain superior standards of personal integrity and ethics. (need to invest in strengthening police oversight, accountability and integrity bodies and practices to ensure the end of impunity for human rights abuses)

✓ Need for measures to establish and strengthen effective, accountable, impartial and inclusive criminal justice institutions;

✓ Ensure that measures targeting the criminal justice system contribute to the development and strengthening of institutions as well as fostering a culture of lawfulness among the public, such considerations may include: a) degree to which the criminal justice institutions adhere to standards and codes of conduct b) impact of such measures on the relationship between the institutions and their beneficiaries (public perception and confidence)
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• Social, educational and other relevant measures:

✓ Connecting our thoughts: Education → Prevention → Promote the rule of law and foster a culture of lawfulness.

✓ Why education on the rule of law matters? How do we address the gap between the criminal justice and education sectors? What needs to be done?

✓ Doha Declaration: → Recognized the key role of education
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Education and youth engagement as key to making societies resilient to crime:
✓ Empower children and youth to assume their roles as key agents of positive change and to be able to contribute to promote the rule of law and foster a culture of lawfulness;
✓ Ensure a social and developmental approach to crime prevention, which is key for making societies more resilient to crime.
✓ Importance of designing and adapting crime prevention policies to cater and respond to the needs and challenges facing children and youth.
✓ Consider the power of education as a preventive measure to address new and emerging forms of crime.
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Questions for discussion (if needed):
✓ What are the lessons learned in reforming legal aid systems, including in enacting or amending dedicated legislation?
✓ Which access to justice policies and measures have proved effective in reducing pretrial detention?
✓ What measures are effective in improving access to justice for victims, in particular vulnerable groups, including what practices have led to higher crime reporting rates by victims?
✓ What are the good practices and the lessons learned to promote access to justice for children, including in empowering children to access justice remedies?
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Questions for discussion (if needed):

✓ What measures and mechanisms to strengthen integrity and accountability have proved most successful in practice at preventing corruption in criminal justice institutions?
✓ How crime prevention, criminal justice and other rule of law aspects have been integrated into all levels of education? What were the challenges?
✓ What are the different national approaches to promoting a culture of lawfulness?
✓ What has been the impact of involving civil society in achieving peace and justice at the local level?
Thank you for your attention.