



UNITED
NATIONS



**Sixth United Nations Congress on the
Prevention of Crime and the Treatment
of Offenders**

Distr.
GENERAL

A/CONF.87/1
7 May 1980

Caracas, Venezuela, 25 August to 5 September 1980

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

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ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Opening of the Congress

The Congress will be opened by the Secretary-General of the Congress or his representative on Monday, 25 August 1980, at 10:15 a.m. .

2. Organizational matters

(a) Election of the President

Rule 6 of the provisional rules of procedure (A/CONF.87/2) provides that the Congress shall elect a President from among the representatives of participating States. Rule 41 provides that all elections shall be held by secret ballot, unless the Congress decides otherwise.

(b) Adoption of the rules of procedure

The provisional rules of procedure, contained in document A/CONF.87/2, were approved by the Economic and Social Council in its decision 1979/25 of 9 May 1979, as amended by decision 1980/105 of 6 February 1980.

(c) Adoption of the agenda

The Economic and Social Council, in its decision 1980/106 of 6 February 1980, approved the provisional agenda for the Congress.

(d) Organization of work

Rule 43 of the provisional rules of procedure provides that there shall be as many committees of the whole as may be approved from time to time by the Economic and Social Council, on the recommendation of the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control, and that each committee may set up subcommittees and working groups to the extent permitted by available facilities.

The Economic and Social Council, in its decision 1980/106, approved the following arrangements for the organization of work;

(i) Two committees would be set up to consider items 3 to 8 of the provisional agenda:

Committee I would consider items 3 and 7 and would hold 16 meetings. A working group of Committee I would consider item 8 and would hold three meetings;

Committee II would consider items 4, 5 and 6 and would hold 19 meetings;

(ii) Four plenary meetings would be held for organizational matters and for the adoption of the report of the Congress.

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The provisional rules of procedure further provide for the appointment of a Credentials Committee (rule 4) and the setting-up of a General Committee (rule 6).

A proposed time-table for the work of the Congress will be circulated for consideration by the Congress in document A/CONF.87/3.

(e) Election of officers other than the President

Under rule 6 of the provisional rules of procedure, the Congress shall elect such a number of Vice-Presidents, and a Rapporteur-General, as well as a Chairman for each of the committees provided for in rule 43, as shall bring the total number of officers to 25. These 25 officers shall constitute the General Committee and shall be elected on the basis of ensuring its representative character. Rules 41 and 42 of the provisional rules of procedure provide for different methods for carrying out these elections (namely, by secret ballot, or without taking a ballot on an agreed candidate or slate).

(f) Credentials of representatives to the Congress

- (i) Appointment of the members of the Credentials Committee
- (ii) Report of the Credentials Committee

Rule 4 of the provisional rules of procedure provides that a Credentials Committee of nine members shall be appointed by the Congress on the proposal of the President and that its membership shall, as far as possible, be the same as that of the Credentials Committee of the General Assembly of the United Nations at its immediately preceding session. At the thirty-fourth session of the General Assembly, the Credentials Committee consisted of representatives of the following States: Belgium, China, Congo, Ecuador, Pakistan, Panama, Senegal, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and United States of America. In accordance with rule 4, the Credentials Committee shall examine the credentials of representatives and report to the Congress.

3. Crime trends and crime prevention strategies

The Secretariat will submit a working paper (A/CONF.87/4) to assist in the discussion of this item. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 32/59 of 8 December 1977, the Secretary-General will submit to the Sixth Congress and to the General Assembly at its thirty-fifth session a report on the implementation by Member States of the relevant conclusions of the Fifth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (A/35/___). The gravity of the crime situation and the urgent need for effective action to cope with it were amply revealed during the last Congress and recognized by the General Assembly in its resolutions 32/59 and 32/60 of 8 December 1977.

Under this item, the Congress may wish to examine the current trends, changes in and implications of criminality at both the national and global levels in order to facilitate improved data collection and dissemination, and to make proposals for an effective network for the exchange of experience and information. The Congress may also wish to consider various crime prevention strategies in order to evaluate their effectiveness, and to recommend appropriate guidelines and policies for crime prevention, both in the field of criminal justice and in all sectors of economic and social development. Finally, the Congress may wish to consider follow-up action on its conclusions at the national, regional and international levels.

4. Juvenile justice: before and after the onset of delinquency

Under this item, the Congress will have before it a working paper on the subject (A/CONF.87/5), prepared by the Secretariat. The item was included in the provisional agenda in view of the rapidly increasing size of the youth population and the significant changes in methods and procedures to deal with delinquency, especially the increased emphasis on human rights considerations. Under this item, the Congress may wish to examine the problems related to juvenile justice from three perspectives: (a) that of social justice for all children and young persons; (b) in terms of the special efforts needed for children and young persons growing up under circumstances which endanger their social maturation; and (c) in terms of a humane administrative or juridical justice for the child and young person who has come into conflict with the law. The Congress may also wish to identify policy actions and make appropriate recommendations in this respect.

5. Crime and the abuse of power: offences and offenders beyond the reach of the law?

Under this item, the Congress will have before it a working paper on the subject (A/CONF.87/6), prepared by the Secretariat. At the Fifth Congress it was noted that, in addition to ordinary criminals who escaped detection, there were a substantial number of powerful perpetrators of harmful acts who wielded their power and influence with impunity, to the detriment of the community as a whole; 1/ the Congress stressed the need for urgent attention in order to develop action strategies. Under this item, the Congress may wish to consider offences related to abuses of economic power, including consumer fraud, corruption and crimes against the environment, as well as those related to abuses of public power, frequently constituting infringements of fundamental human rights. The Congress may also wish to examine ways of assessing the extent, forms and impacts of such actions and to recommend strategies designed to prevent and control them, nationally and internationally.

1/ See Fifth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (United Nations publication, Sales No.E.76.IV.2 and Corr.1), chap. II, para. 143.

6. Deinstitutionalization of corrections and its implications for the residual prisoner

Under this item, the Congress will have before it a working paper on the subject (A/CONF.87/7), prepared by the Secretariat.

This topic reflects the long-standing concern of the United Nations with the treatment of offenders, in custody or in the community. Under this item, the Congress may wish to examine current trends in penal policies and practices, within the broader context of a more effective implementation of the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners. 2/ The Congress may also wish to consider the wide range of alternatives that could be used to replace imprisonment, such as progressive measures for rehabilitating offenders, with the involvement of the community, the main emphasis being placed on particular methods and means of planning and implementing community-based programmes, and the different approaches for the treatment of those dangerous or anti-social offenders who have to be confined in the public interest.

7. United Nations norms and guidelines in criminal justice: from standard-setting to implementation, and capital punishment

Under this item, the Congress will have before it a working paper on United Nations norms and guidelines in criminal justice: from standard-setting to implementation (A/CONF.87/8) and a working paper on capital punishment (A/CONF.87/9), prepared in accordance with General Assembly resolution 32/61 of 8 December 1977. In addition, the Secretary-General will also submit to the Congress, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 34/167 of 17 December 1979, the relevant documentation based on Governments' replies to the questionnaire on the Declaration on the Protection of All Persons from Being Subjected to Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (see General Assembly resolution 3452 (XXX) of 9 December 1975) and also, in accordance with Economic and Social Council decision 1980/142 of 2 May 1980, the quinquennial report on capital punishment (E/1980/9 and Corr.1 and E/1980/9 Add.1 and Corr.1 and Add.2)

The value of the norms set by the United Nations, such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (General Assembly resolution 217 A (III)), the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (General Assembly resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex) and the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners, 2/ has been recognized by Governments, but there appears to be a need to devise more effective means and procedures for the national and international implementation of these instruments. Under this item, the Congress may wish to

2/ First United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, Geneva, 22 August-3 September 1955 (United Nations publication, Sales No. 56.IV.4), annex I.A, as approved by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 663 C (XXIV) of 31 July 1957 and amended by Council resolution 2076 (LII) of 13 May 1977 (see ESA/SDHA/1).

make an assessment of the application of the existing United Nations standards in the field of criminal justice, to examine methods and ways for their effective implementation, and make appropriate recommendations to secure the rights and protect the dignity of all those who come into contact with the criminal justice system.

The question of capital punishment will be considered separately. In this connexion, the Congress may wish to discuss the various aspects of the use of capital punishment, focusing mainly, as recommended by the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control at its fifth session (E/CN.5/558), on the following issues:

- (a) Legal provisions and practices that have contributed in the past five years to the reduction or total abolition of capital punishment;
- (b) The experience of countries that have succeeded in abolishing capital punishment;
- (c) Current governmental, non-governmental and popular initiatives and plans to reduce capital punishment;
- (d) Details of targets set for the eventual abolition of the death penalty.

8. New perspectives in crime prevention and criminal justice and development: the role of international co-operation

Under this item the Congress will have before it a working paper on the subject (A/CONF.87/10), prepared by the Secretariat. The item was added to the provisional agenda by the Economic and Social Council at its organizational session for 1980.

The Council at its fiftieth session adopted resolution 1584 (L) of 21 May 1971, in which it expressed its concern at the serious threat that criminality presents to the quality of economic and social development and to the wholesomeness of economic and social progress and social change". The annex to the resolution contained the Declaration of the Fourth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders in which the Fourth Congress, inter alia, referred to "the increasing urgency of the need for the world community of nations to improve its planning for economic and social development by taking fuller account of the effects of urbanization, industrialization and the technological revolution upon the quality of life and the human environment". Under this item, the Sixth Congress may wish to consider taking into account national experiences, new perspectives and strategies for crime prevention and criminal justice and development. The Congress may also wish to recommend more effective ways of increasing co-operation among Member States, to examine the role of international co-operation and to identify areas for further action in this field.

9. Adoption of the report of the Sixth Congress

Under rule 50 of the provisional rules of procedures, the Congress is to adopt a report, the draft of which shall be prepared by the Rapporteur-General. In accordance with Economic and Social Council decision 1980/106, the report of the Congress will be submitted to the General Assembly at its thirty-fifth session, through the Economic and Social Council.

This archiving project is a collaborative effort between United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and American Society of Criminology, Division of International Criminology. Any comments or questions should be directed to Cindy J. Smith at CJSmithphd@comcast.net or Emil Wandzilak at emil.wandzilak@unodc.org.