



# UNODC

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

## 2020 Kyoto Crime Congress: High-Level Ancillary Event Concept Note

### **Walking the Walk: Addressing Violence, Organized Crime, Terrorism and other Emerging Threats to International Peace and Security**

**Monday 7 March 2021**

**16.30 – 18:00**

#### **Background**

Since the last UN Crime Congress took place in 2015, the UN system went through a series of important reforms initiated by the SG since 2016, including the UN peace and security pillar, culminated with the adoption of GA resolution A/RES/72/199 of 20 December 2017. While the reform has produced some results from a structural/organizational perspective, more needs to be done to ensure that the UN system is ready to move forward certain priority areas to ensure coherence and coordination across the peace and security pillar. As correctly indicated in the joint World Bank-UN report “Pathways for Peace: Inclusive Approaches to Preventing Violent Conflict”, violent conflict is increasingly recognized as one of the big obstacles to reaching the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030. Its dramatic resurgence over the last few years has caused immense human suffering and has enormous global impact. Violent conflicts have also become more complex and protracted, involving more nonstate groups and regional and international actors. And they are increasingly linked to global challenges such as climate change, natural disasters, cyber security and transnational organized crime. It is projected that more than half of the people living in poverty will be found in countries affected by high levels of violence by 2030. This is utterly contrary to the promise contained in the 2030 Agenda to leave no one behind. As the human, social and financial costs and complexity of violent conflict and its global impact grow, we must ask ourselves: **how can the global community more effectively prevent violent conflict?**

#### **Objectives**

The Division for Policy analysis and Public Affairs (DPA) under the direction of the New York Liaison Office (NYLO), along with Division for Treaty Affairs (DTA), in particular its Organized Crime and Terrorism Prevention Branches, is proposing an inter-divisional high-level event for the Crime Congress. This event would contribute to answer this question and facilitate a discussion among UN Principals on how key UN entities could meaningfully engage across the conflict continuum to ensure a more holistic approach to violence, crime and conflict prevention and resolution. UNODC NYLO would co-organize this event with the Executive Office of the Secretary General (EOSG), the Department of Peace Operations (DPO) and the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (DPPA).

#### **Format**

The event would unfold with a panel discussion on issues related to violence, organized crime, terrorism and other emerging threats to international peace and security, followed by a question and answer period from participants, statements from the floor and conclusion from the moderator. The panel would mainly be composed by the **Deputy Secretary-General** (alternatively the **SG’s Senior Adviser on Policy**), the **Executive Director of UNODC**, the **USGs of DPO and DPPA** respectively. A senior representative of the World Bank would also be invited to participate in the event. The moderator for this session would be a high-level speaker, who has knowledge and insight into the UN peace and security pillar. Emphasis will be placed on having a gender-balanced panel.



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## Outcome

The resurgence of crime and violent conflict in recent years has caused immense human suffering, at enormous social and economic cost. Violent conflicts today have become complex and protracted, involving more non-state groups and regional and international actors, often linked to global challenges from climate change to various forms of crime, including transnational organized crime and terrorism. It is increasingly recognized as an obstacle to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. This has given impetus for policy makers at all levels – from local to global – to focus on preventing violent conflict more effectively. This event would provide a unique platform to discuss how the UN system and can the global community more effectively can prevent crime and violent conflict, in line with the SG’s reform of the UN peace and security pillar.