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## Asia and Pacific Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Fifteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

Bangkok, 21–23 January 2025

### Draft report

*Rapporteur:* Sheraz Ali (Pakistan)

## Report of the Asia and Pacific Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Fifteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

### I. Introduction

1. In its resolution [56/119](#), on the role, function, periodicity and duration of the United Nations congresses on the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders, the General Assembly decided that each congress should be preceded by regional preparatory meetings and also decided to call future congresses United Nations congresses on crime prevention and criminal justice.
2. The Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Lessons Learned from United Nations Congresses on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, at its meeting held in Bangkok from 15 to 18 August 2006, discussed how to incorporate regional concerns and perspectives into the preparation of the congresses. The Group stressed the importance of regional preparatory meetings as a key preparatory tool for the congresses and noted that, despite globalization and the increasingly transboundary nature of criminality, different regions of the world continued to have different concerns, which they wanted to see properly reflected in the consideration of various topics by the congresses ([E/CN.15/2007/6](#), para. 23).
3. In its resolution [78/223](#), the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to facilitate the organization of the regional preparatory meetings for the Fifteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and to make available the necessary resources for the participation of the least developed countries in those meetings and in the Fifteenth Congress itself, in accordance with past practice and in consultation with Member States. In the same resolution, the Assembly encouraged the relevant United Nations programmes, specialized agencies of the United Nations system and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, as well as other professional organizations, to cooperate with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in the preparations for the Fifteenth Congress.



4. In the same resolution, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General, in cooperation with the institutes of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme network, to prepare a discussion guide for the regional preparatory meetings for the Fifteenth Congress and for the Congress itself in a timely manner, and invited Member States to be actively involved in that process.

5. At its thirty-third session, the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ) considered the draft discussion guide. In its resolution [79/186](#), the General Assembly took note with appreciation of the draft discussion guide and requested the Secretary-General to finalize it in a timely manner, taking into account the recommendations of the Commission, as well as additional comments and feedback from Member States, in order to enable the regional preparatory meetings for the Fifteenth Congress to be held as early as possible in 2025. The finalized discussion guide ([A/CONF.241/PM.1](#)) has been published and made available on the website.

6. In its resolution [78/223](#), the General Assembly encouraged Governments to undertake preparations for the Fifteenth Congress at an early stage and by all appropriate means, including, where appropriate, the establishment of national preparatory committees. Also in that resolution, as well as in resolution [79/186](#), the General Assembly urged participants in the regional preparatory meetings to examine the substantive items on the agenda and the topics of the workshops of the Fifteenth Congress and to make action-oriented recommendations to serve as a basis for the draft recommendations and conclusions for consideration by the Congress.

### **III. Attendance and organization of work**

#### **A. Date and venue of the Meeting**

7. The Asia and Pacific Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Fifteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice was held in Bangkok from 21 to 23 January 2025.

#### **B. Attendance**

8. The following States members of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific were represented at the Meeting: Australia, Azerbaijan, France, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Pakistan, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Singapore, Tajikistan, Thailand, Turkmenistan, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, and Viet Nam.

9. Canada, Italy, and United Arab Emirates were represented by observers.

10. The following entities of the United Nations system were represented by observers: United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, and World Bank – International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD). The United Nations Regional Resident Coordinator was present for the opening session.

11. The following institutes of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme network were represented by observers: Korean Institute of Criminology and Justice (KICJ), the Thailand Institute of Justice, and Asia and Far East Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders.

12. The following non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council was represented by observers: Alliance of NGOs on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, Asia Crime Prevention Foundation, Caritas Internationalis, Global Alliance against Traffic in Women, Global Initiative against Transnational Organized Crime, and the Wildlife Conservation Society.

### C. Opening of the Meeting

13. The Asia and Pacific Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Fifteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice was opened on 21 January 2025 by the Secretary of the Meeting.

14. The Chair of the CCPCJ at its thirty-fourth session, in a video message, stressed the importance of regional preparatory meetings in identifying regional priorities and proposing concrete recommendations, which would contribute to the drafting of the Abu Dhabi declaration.

15. The Executive Director of UNODC, in a video message, emphasized that the Fifteenth Congress would address some of the most pressing current challenges, such as new and evolving forms of crime, equal access to justice for all, and responsible use of technology. The Acting Regional Representative for Southeast Asia and the Pacific, UNODC, complemented the Executive Director's statement by highlighting the region's challenges and progress achieved in addressing them.

16. The Minister of Justice of Thailand emphasized the relevance of digital technology in transforming crime prevention and justice strategies. He stressed the importance of law enforcement cooperation and public awareness raising in addressing new criminal threats, exacerbated by misuse of rapid technological advancements. He mentioned the impact of climate change on crime, and reiterated Thailand's commitment to enhancing crime prevention and criminal justice, as well as the promotion and use of the Bangkok Rules.

17. The Head of the International Affairs Bureau of the Ministry of Interior, representing the United Arab Emirates as the Host Country of the Fifteenth Congress, highlighted contemporary challenges and unique opportunities as reflected in the overarching theme of the Fifteenth Congress. She highlighted the Fifteenth Congress as a continuation of the collaborative journey, emphasizing the importance of engaging multiple stakeholders in safeguarding communities.

18. A youth representative of the Generation Justice (GenJust) initiative, which aimed to promote youth engagement in the lead up to and at Fifteenth Congress, shared key recommendations from the GenJust Asia-Pacific regional youth consultation in a video message, elaborated in A/CONF.241/RPM.1/CRP.2.

### D. Election of officers

19. At its 1st meeting, on 21 January 2025, the Meeting elected, by acclamation, the following officers:

*Chair:* Yodchatr Tasarika (Thailand)

*Vice-Chair:* Jessica Tan (Singapore)

*Rapporteur:* Sheraz Ali (Pakistan)

### E. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

20. Also at its 1st meeting, the Meeting adopted its provisional agenda (A/CONF.241/RPM.1/1), which read as follows:

1. Opening of the Meeting.
2. Election of officers.
3. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
4. Main theme of the Fifteenth Congress: "Accelerating crime prevention, criminal justice and the rule of law: protecting people and planet and

achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the digital age”.

5. Substantive items on the agenda and the topics of the workshops of the Fifteenth Congress:
  - (a) Advancing innovative and evidence-based crime prevention strategies towards social, economic and environmental development (agenda item 3); and building resilient societies, with a focus on protecting women, children and youth: fostering engagement, education and the culture of lawfulness (workshop 1);
  - (b) Promoting people-centred, inclusive and responsive criminal justice systems in a world of continuous change (agenda item 4); and ensuring equal access to justice for all: towards safe and secure societies while respecting the rule of law (workshop 2);
  - (c) Addressing and countering crime – including organized crime and terrorism in all its forms and manifestations – in new, emerging and evolving forms (agenda item 5); and getting ahead: strengthening data collection and analysis to better protect people and planet in times of new, emerging and evolving forms of crime (workshop 3);
  - (d) Working better together to elevate cooperation and partnerships, including technical and material assistance and training, at the national, regional and international levels, in crime prevention and criminal justice (agenda item 6); and turning the digital age into an opportunity: promoting the responsible use of technologies in crime prevention and criminal justice (workshop 4).
6. Recommendations for the Fifteenth Congress.
7. Adoption of the report on the Meeting.

At the same meeting, the Meeting approved its organization of work. The list of documents before the Meeting is contained in the annex to the present report.

#### **Proceedings**

21. The 1st to 3rd, 5th and 6th meetings from 21 to 23 January were chaired by Yodchatr Tasarika (Thailand) and the 4th meeting on 22 January was chaired by Jessica Tan (Singapore).

### **IV. Adoption of the report and closure of the Meeting**

22. At its 6th meeting, on 23 January 2025, the Meeting considered and adopted its report (A/CONF.241/RPM.1/L.1, A/CONF.241/RPM.1/L.1/Add.1, A/CONF.241/RPM.1/L.1/Add.2, A/CONF.241/RPM.1/L.1/Add.3, A/CONF.241/L.1/Add.4 and A/CONF.241/RPM.1/L.1/Add.5).

## Annex

### List of documents

<a href="#">A/CONF.241/PM.1</a>	Discussion guide
<a href="#">A/CONF.241/RPM.1/1</a>	Annotated provisional agenda
<a href="#">A/CONF.241/RPM.1/L.1</a>	Draft report
<a href="#">A/CONF.241/RPM.1/L.1/Add.1</a>	Draft report: Conclusions and recommendations
<a href="#">A/CONF.241/RPM.1/L.1/Add.2</a>	Draft report: Conclusions and recommendations ( <i>continued</i> )
<a href="#">A/CONF.241/RPM.1/L.1/Add.3</a>	Draft report: Conclusions and recommendations ( <i>continued</i> )
<a href="#">A/CONF.241/RPM.1/L.1/Add.4</a>	Draft report: Conclusions and recommendations ( <i>continued</i> )
<a href="#">A/CONF.241/RPM.1/L.1/Add.5</a>	Draft report: Conclusions and recommendations ( <i>continued</i> )
<a href="#">A/CONF.241/RPM.1/INF/2</a>	List of participants
<a href="#">A/CONF.241/PM/CRP.1</a>	Conference room paper: Chair's summaries on the 2021 to 2024 thematic discussions of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice on the implementation of the Kyoto Declaration
<a href="#">A/CONF.241/PM/CRP.2</a>	Conference room paper submitted by Brazil and Canada: Recommendations of the Expert Group Meeting on Equal Access to Justice for All
<a href="#">A/CONF.241/RPM.1/CRP.1</a>	Conference room paper submitted by the Thailand Institute of Justice
<a href="#">A/CONF.241/RPM.1/CRP.2</a>	Conference room paper: recommendations from the GenJust Asia-Pacific regional youth consultation