



# General Assembly

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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

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#### Addendum

## II. Recommendations – Agenda item 4

1. The Secretary of the Asia and Pacific Regional Preparatory recalled that in accordance with General Assembly resolution [77/231](#), efforts had been made to ensure that the overall theme, the agenda items and workshop topics were streamlined. The Secretary reminded participants that, since the main theme was designed to serve as an umbrella for the substantive agenda items and workshop topics and for the discussions under those that would take place at the Congress, they were invited to engage in a general, aspirational discussion with regard to the relationship between the main theme and the substantive agenda items of the Congress, as well as the policy implications of that relationship. She explained that, in order to facilitate the discussions at the regional preparatory meetings and the Congress itself, the discussion guide had clustered the agenda items that dealt with issues of broad and global importance together with the relevant workshop topics, on the understanding that the latter were designed to cover more specific topics and draw on practical experiences and approaches.

2. Presentations were delivered by representatives of the Secretariat introducing the main theme, substantive agenda items and workshop topics. Statements were made by the representative of Thailand, Indonesia, Japan, Azerbaijan, United Kingdom, Russian Federation, Mongolia, Philippines, Pakistan, and Viet Nam. Statements were also made by the observers for the Thai Institute of Justice and the Global Initiative against Transnational Organized Crime.



**A. Main theme of the Fifteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice: “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”.**

**Summary of deliberations**

3. In discussing the main theme of the Congress, speakers addressed a wide range of pressing issues related to crime prevention, criminal justice, and the rule of law, with a particular focus on both global and regional challenges. These included combating transnational organized crime, corruption, cybercrime, crimes that affect the environment, financial crimes, including money-laundering, drug-related crimes, terrorism and violent extremism, hate crime, as well violence against women and girls. Throughout the discussions, speakers emphasized the interconnectedness of these challenges, underscoring the need for evidence-based, inclusive, and people-centred approaches to build resilient and effective criminal justice systems.

4. Speakers highlighted the critical relationship between the rule of law and the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, particularly Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16 on peace, justice, and strong institutions. It was underlined that a fair, inclusive, and resilient criminal justice system was fundamental to promoting the rule of law and achieving sustainable development. Speakers reaffirmed the importance of strengthening legal frameworks to ensure equitable access to justice and the protection of human rights.

5. The transformative potential of technology in addressing crime was another key element highlighted, with speakers acknowledging the dual nature of technology as both a tool for advancing criminal justice and a medium exploited by criminals, particularly in the context of cybercrime and the presence of scam centres in the region. Speakers welcomed the adoption of the United Nations Convention on Cybercrime, urging its signing, ratification and implementation as a cornerstone for addressing transnational cyber threats. Emphasis was placed on ensuring that technological advancements were harnessed responsibly, safeguarding human rights and privacy, while building capacity to counteract cyber-enabled crimes effectively.

6. International cooperation emerged as a recurring priority, including with calls to strengthen mutual legal assistance, extradition, and cross-border coordination to combat transnational organized crime. Speakers stressed the need for collective action to address illicit financial flows and corruption, recognizing that these issues undermine economic stability, governance, and social development.

7. Speakers also addressed the growing threat of crimes that affect the environment, including wildlife trafficking and the illegal exploitation of natural resources. Speakers recognized these crimes as significant contributors to organized criminal networks and environmental degradation. Discussions underscored the need for enhanced research, cross-border information exchange, and the integration of environmental considerations into crime prevention strategies. In this context, speakers emphasized the need of addressing the triple planetary crisis – climate change, pollution, and biodiversity loss – also within the framework of criminal justice policies.

8. Speakers highlighted the importance of inclusive justice systems that prioritize fairness, transparency, and access to justice for all, particularly for women, children and vulnerable populations. The Bangkok Rules, the Mandela Rules, and the Tokyo Rules were noted as important frameworks for promoting gender-responsive and humane approaches to justice. Discussions called for greater focus on addressing the specific needs of women, children, and marginalized groups in justice systems globally.

9. Speakers underscored the vital role of multi-stakeholder partnerships in fostering innovation, inclusivity, and effective responses to crime. Speakers highlighted the need for mobilization and active collaboration between governments, the private

sector, civil society, including at the grass-root level, and local communities to address complex and evolving challenges in crime prevention and criminal justice.

10. Empowering youth and fostering a culture of lawfulness were also emphasized as critical for building long-term resilience. Speakers stressed the importance of engaging young people through education and active participation in community-based crime prevention initiatives.

11. Speakers underscored the critical role of the CCPCJ in advancing global discussions on crime prevention and sustainable development. The important role of UNODC in delivering technical assistance, capacity-building, and policy guidance, was underlined.

### **Outcome of deliberations**

12. The following recommendations, which were not negotiated by the participants, were identified:

(a) Strengthen the capacity of crime prevention and criminal justice systems to address global and regional challenges, including transnational organized crime, corruption, financial crimes, terrorism, including violent extremism, hate crime, trafficking in persons, smuggling of migrants, drug-related crimes, violence against women and girls, crimes that affect the environment, cybercrime, and new and emerging forms of crime. Focus on fostering public trust, building institutional resilience, and adopting evidence-based, people-centred policies ensuring fairness, inclusivity and access to justice for all;

(b) Integrate responses to the triple planetary crisis – climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution – into crime prevention and criminal justice strategies. Enhance research, data collection, and sharing of information on the climate-crime nexus to support actionable climate security policies and justice system preparedness. Improve cross-border cooperation at the global level, exchange good practices, and ensure that systems are equipped to address vulnerabilities, protect at-risk populations, and mitigate the environmental impacts of crimes;

(c) Leverage the transformative potential of digital technologies to address crime, improve access to justice, and strengthen law enforcement responses. Emphasize responsible use of digital tools to safeguard human rights, including privacy and fair trial rights. Expand research and data sharing to keep pace with global technological trends and better leverage frameworks like the United Nations Convention against Cybercrime to enhance global cooperation and effectively address technology-enabled crimes;

(d) Promote inclusive access to justice as a catalyst for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals by strengthening resilience, including through policy coordination, capacity-building, and integrated approaches. Address the needs of vulnerable members of society, including, women, the elderly, and individuals with mental health challenges, as well as empower them and strengthen their resilience. Empower youth through education and engagement to build a culture of lawfulness and innovation in crime prevention;

(e) Foster multi-stakeholder partnerships with the United Nations, intergovernmental organizations, civil society, including at the grass root level, the private sector, and local communities. Build inclusive collaborations that leverage diverse expertise, resources, and innovation to align strategies with global commitments and support the effective implementation of existing instruments;

(f) Strengthen the role of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ) as a platform for advancing global discussions on crime prevention, criminal justice, and sustainable development. Build on the Kyoto Declaration and translate the Abu Dhabi Declaration into actionable outcomes, ensuring consistent implementation and follow-up;

(g) Collaborate with UNODC to operationalize the outcomes of the Congress through technical assistance, capacity-building, and policy guidance. Ensure transparency and accountability in monitoring progress and align efforts to deliver tangible impacts, including in areas like cybercrime, crimes that affect the environment, and transnational organized crime.

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