



General Assembly

Distr.: Limited
21 January 2025

Original: English
Chinese, English, French and
Russian only

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)

Addendum

II. Recommendations (*continued*)

B. Substantive items and workshops – Agenda item 5 (a)

1. An introductory presentation was delivered by a representative of the Secretariat introducing the agenda item. Statements were made by the representatives of Thailand, the United Arab Emirates, the Russian Federation, Indonesia, the Philippines, Australia and Japan. A statement was made by the observer for the United Nations Asia and Far East Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (UNAFEI). Statements were also made by the observers for the Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women (GAATW), the Wildlife Conservation Society and the Asia Crime Prevention Foundation (ACPF).

1. 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)

Summary of deliberations

2. Speakers discussed existing challenges related to crime prevention and criminal justice, together with ways to address them. Efforts to mainstream evidence-based responses and policy on crime prevention, through training and the development of international guidelines was noted, as well as crime mapping and data collection. The exchange of information and best practices to further enhance these efforts was emphasized.

3. Artificial intelligence was described as a double-edged sword, that can represent a threat but also be used for good. In connection to this, speakers noted that law enforcement agencies should leverage advancement in information technology for the benefit of crime detection and investigation, in line with international best practices.



4. Speakers also discussed the situation of specific groups, such as women, children, youth and elderly. The importance of making a clear differentiation between children and youth in crime prevention efforts was mentioned. The need to enhance child protection was emphasized as a priority, especially in light of the increase of online child sexual abuse, child trafficking and other online crimes targeting children. It was mentioned that more should be done for the prevention of child suicide, adding that the provision of psychological services can be helpful. In addition, it was observed that programmes against trafficking in persons for forced labour and child trafficking are central to protect particularly vulnerable groups, including children.

5. Speakers also discussed the protection needs of women as well as the importance of integrating gender equality in criminal justice systems. Reference was made to the implementation of the International Convention on the Status of Women and the need to address forms of discrimination as well as the importance of adhering to the commitments made in the Kyoto Declaration. Access by women to high rank positions as well as mainstreaming a gender perspective in national crime prevention strategies was emphasized. Reference was made to the need to combat racism, xenophobia, and negative social attitudes towards migrants, particularly women within criminal justice systems, by, for example, promoting evidence-based information about legal migration and expanding regular migration pathways, particularly for low wage women workers.

6. Environmental considerations were recognized as integral to effective crime prevention and justice efforts. Speakers highlighted the importance of addressing crimes that affect the environment, undermine the rule of law, and often involve organized criminal networks. Key measures shared included enhanced enforcement of environmental regulations, early intervention to mitigate natural disasters, and improved monitoring of resource utilization, such as land, forests and water bodies. Speakers advocated for integrated approaches that link environmental protection with crime prevention, alongside fostering international cooperation to combat transnational crimes that affect the environment.

7. Speakers mentioned that women, children and youth can be powerful agents of change, which was illustrated by a good example of youth involvement in international forums. To create a culture of lawfulness, address crime and promote sustainable development, the engagement of different stakeholders, including communities and civil society organizations, in crime prevention strategies was recommended by speakers. Access to justice, social development and economic equality were mentioned as ways to foster crime prevention and address the root causes of crime. Speakers finally noted the importance of improving rehabilitation programmes for offenders as a way to prevent crime and reduce reoffending.

Outcome of deliberations

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

(a) Strengthen collaboration and international cooperation among law enforcement agencies, including through initiatives such as integrated criminal justice systems, joint investigations, coordination forums and guidelines;

(b) Enhance capacity-building programmes, and financial as well as technical assistance tailored to the unique contexts of developing nations to better combat crime, including with the support of UNODC's technical cooperation programmes and tools;

(c) Enhance legal and enforcement mechanisms to address crimes that affect the environment, including illegal logging, wildlife trafficking and pollution. Strengthen international cooperation to share best practices, coordinate enforcement actions and monitor the sustainable use of natural resources. Integrate environmental protection into broader crime prevention strategies to address the intersection of environmental sustainability and criminal justice effectively;

(d) Encourage the use by law enforcement of new technological tools, in line with appropriate national and international legal frameworks, and cooperate with the private sector and encourage them to find technological solutions to better detect online crime and crimes committed through the misuse of information and communications technologies;

(e) Develop or strengthen measures to support the mental health of children exposed to crime, violence and abuse on the Internet, including targeted interventions for the prevention of child suicide;

(f) Invest in educational initiatives, community-driven interventions, and awareness campaigns to foster respect for the rule of law and promote a culture of lawfulness. Empower youth as agents of change;

(g) In an effort to address the risks faced by vulnerable population to become victims of crime, dedicate more attention to the protection of elderly people, who are increasingly targets of online frauds and scams;

(h) Engage civil society organizations, academia and the private sector in gender equality and gender mainstreaming efforts, with a special focus on the need to increase the representation of women in the criminal justice system, and make gender-specific measures an integral part of crime prevention and criminal justice policies, thereby adhering to the commitments made in the Kyoto Declaration;

(i) Review migration policies aiming to combat the smuggling of migrants and reduce migrants reliance on irregular routes that make them vulnerable to criminals, including traffickers and smugglers, while noting the need to not conflate trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants;

(j) Develop policies and measures to strengthen the rehabilitation of offenders and reduce reoffending, including through educational programmes and training and volunteering probation officers and promote the use of the (future) United Nations model strategies on reducing reoffending currently being negotiated.
