



**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 (d)**

1. An introductory presentation was delivered by a representative of the Secretariat. Statements were made by the representatives of Thailand, Indonesia, Australia, Viet Nam, Russian Federation, United States of America, Japan and United Arab Emirates.

- 4. 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).**

Summary of deliberations

2. Many speakers identified the importance of enhanced international and regional cooperation to prevent and address organized crime, corruption, terrorism, crimes against children as well as other serious transnational organized crimes. Regional organizations such as ASEAN and the Southeast Asia Justice Network were identified as important coordination mechanisms and centres for knowledge and capacity building. It was noted that regional networks can play an important role to ensure implementation of best practices in handling international crime cooperation requests, effectively.

3. Some speakers appreciated the importance of UNODC's normative work and its work on research, technical assistance, and capacity building in cooperation with relevant stakeholders. The UNODC Regional Office in Southeast Asia and the Pacific and its regional programme were highlighted as providing a valuable framework for cooperation in the region.



4. Aspects of international cooperation in criminal matters which were referred to as being particularly important included arrangements for joint investigations, seizure and asset recovery, extradition, mutual legal assistance, the transfer of prisoners, the protection of victims of crime in cross-border cases, and the support to national citizens living or travelling abroad. Speakers identified regional and international cooperation as an important means of strengthening regional resilience to serious and transnational crime, including by ensuring that criminals are not able to evade justice simply by crossing borders.
5. The importance of international and regional, interagency, and public-private sector collaboration was identified as particularly important for the prevention and response to cyber-enabled or cyber-dependent crimes against children. Speakers noted that these crimes cannot be successfully addressed by one country or one sector, and that a global response is required. Speakers noted that online child sexual exploitation and abuse are becoming more prevalent, commodified, organized and extreme. The advancement of artificial intelligence (AI) and the adoption of end-to-end encryption by some electronic service providers were identified as impacting on the capacity for law enforcement to identify child sex offenders.
6. Speakers highlighted the importance of the United Nations Convention Against Cybercrime, recognizing it as a foundational framework for fostering international cooperation in efforts to combat cybercrime.
7. The responsible use of AI and other new and advanced technologies was discussed, with some speakers noting the potential for enhanced efficiency, transparency, and accountability within criminal justice systems. The potential for technology to improve information exchange, coordination, and the swift and effective response to emerging threats was also identified.
8. Speakers discussed possible use cases for AI in the criminal justice system, including AI based fraud detection systems, text analysis software, automated licence plate readers, weapons and gunshot detection technology, redaction or face blurring technology, automated speech recognition software, computer aided dispatch systems for first responders, chatbots, crime investigation tools, and prediction models.
9. The potential risks associated with the use of AI in the criminal justice system were noted by many speakers. Some noted that the use of AI can infringe human rights if AI is not used appropriately and within the applicable legal frameworks. The misuse of digital technologies was noted as compromising security, privacy, and the protection of sensitive information including government data.
10. The need to manage the risks of AI was emphasized, with some speakers noting initiatives at the national level for the development of an AI strategy that comprises interagency standards, a code of ethics, and preliminary efforts toward a national standard on the use of AI in criminal investigations. Some highlighted national initiatives to ensure the appropriate monitoring and oversight of AI systems to mitigate the risk that AI technologies can perpetuate biases or lead law enforcement actors to overlook contradictory evidence.
11. Capacity building was identified as a priority, with some speakers noting that cross border collaboration, technical and material assistance and training are key pillars in building an effective, adaptive and inclusive criminal justice system. Some speakers also noted that training on international law and international cooperation mechanisms is essential for effectively addressing the challenges posed by transnational organized crimes such as drug trafficking, cybercrime, and corruption as well as terrorism.
12. The importance of providing modernized and expert-informed online training for criminal justice professionals was also discussed. Multilingual initiatives for national, regional, and international professional development and accreditation were highlighted as an important aspect of international cooperation and technical assistance to support the implementation of updated legislation and international standards relating to financial crime.

13. Speakers highlighted efforts to strengthen close cooperation and coordination with international organizations, civil society organizations, and academic institutions.

14. Speakers also highlighted efforts and progress made at the national level in establishing partnerships with private sector technology companies to promote online safety. Specific initiatives included partnerships for the development of an app to assist technology users to differentiate between legitimate and fraudulent communications; and multi-stakeholder partnerships to use AI to identify and block child sexual abuse materials. Additional initiatives involved strengthened partnerships between financial institutions and law enforcement to ensure a prompt and coordinated response to suspicious transactions.

Outcome of deliberations

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

(a) Strengthen inclusive and multi-stakeholder partnerships at national, bilateral, subregional, regional and international levels to prevent and combat cybercrime;

(b) Promote technical assistance to enable criminal justice and law enforcement practitioners to share information and experience with a view to addressing sophisticated and complex criminal activities in a holistic manner;

(c) Strengthen coordination with international organizations and the Institutes of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme Network (PNI) for the exchange of knowledge and expertise;

(d) Strengthen coordination and partnerships among competent authorities to enhance the effectiveness of combating crime, tracing, seizure, confiscation and recovery of illicitly acquired assets, and share with each other lessons learned from national experiences;

(e) Continue to mainstream a gender perspective into crime prevention and underscore the importance of addressing violence against women and children; and promote gender-sensitive treatment of women in the criminal justice system in line with the Bangkok Rules;

(f) Facilitate the exchange of best practices that Member States could take to accelerate crime prevention, criminal justice, and the rule of law at the domestic level, including by fostering a culture of collaboration, including with relevant non-governmental entities, and promoting information sharing;

(g) Strengthen government partnerships with private sector technology companies, to develop and apply strong tools for online safety (United Arab Emirates) for the identification, prevention, and removal of illegal content (Viet Nam) and to ensure that communities can continue to utilize the benefits of the Internet and communication services while ensuring online safety;

(h) Promote awareness among members of the community, including children, the elderly, and persons in situations of vulnerability, about the methods and scams used by malicious actors for the purposes of cybercrime;

(i) Strengthen global and regional knowledge and capacity on best practices and legislative measures for the prevention and response to online fraud, including unauthorized access to systems and accounts, fraudulent impersonation, and identity theft;

(j) Modernize training for criminal justice practitioners by making use of the capabilities of digital technologies and organize advanced training courses for representatives of national and foreign law enforcement agencies and financial intelligence units, to ensure continuous exchange of best practices and recent research

in order to increase the level of cooperation between competent authorities and to promote mutual learning;

(k) Show examples of responsible, rights-based uses of artificial intelligence to support human rights and the rule of law, and promote training on the limitations of AI, to ensure its proper use;

(l) Seek to promote the responsible use of artificial intelligence technologies in law enforcement efforts to combat and prevent crime, in accordance with a cautious approach that includes the development of unified standards for such use, with the requirement that final decisions are made by humans and ensuring particular attention to the minimization of possible threats.
