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Latin American and Caribbean Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Fifteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

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Draft report

Rapporteur: Rodrigo Bertoglio Cardoso (Brazil)

Addendum

II. Recommendations (*continued*)

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

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)

1. An introductory presentation was delivered by a representative of the Secretariat introducing the agenda item. Statements were made by the representatives of Argentina, Costa Rica, Chile, Colombia, Canada, Mexico, Peru, Kingdom of the Netherlands, Guatemala, Guyana, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Brazil and Uruguay. Statements were also made by the observers for the United Arab Emirates and the Alliance of NGOs for Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.

Summary of deliberations

2. During the debate on agenda item 3 of the Congress, many speakers emphasized the need to promote a multidimensional and whole-of-government approach to crime prevention, in cooperation with relevant stakeholders. Some speakers mentioned, as examples of such integrated approaches, work that is carried out jointly with the health, education, and psychosocial services, including in areas of employment and vocational training, and the creation of civic spaces providing integrated services. It was noted that crime prevention strategies should incorporate community-based programmes with the collaboration of local stakeholders. The need to develop evidence-based crime prevention policies was mentioned by several speakers.

3. Several speakers noted that crime prevention and criminal justice policies must consider the needs of women, children, persons with disabilities, older persons, young people, and persons in vulnerable situations, as well as those suffering from multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination. Multidisciplinary programmes targeting



protective factors for at-risk youth while increasing the capabilities of local authorities in vulnerable neighbourhoods to address recruitment by organized crime groups were referred to.

4. Some speakers mentioned the importance of cooperation between communities, local and national governments, and mentioned the development of local crime prevention and development plans as a good practice. The need to build trust between the criminal justice system and populations, including through community-oriented policing, was mentioned by some speakers. Speakers mentioned the importance of integrating prevention of and responses to corruption within the criminal justice system.

5. Some speakers underscored the importance of making responsible use of technologies in crime prevention programmes, particularly the ethical use of artificial intelligence, ensuring the respect for human rights, including the right to privacy. It was also mentioned that the use of technology, including artificial intelligence, can increase the participation of marginalized stakeholders in crime prevention efforts, while caution is required to prevent possible negative effects of such technologies such as breaches of privacy.

6. A number of speakers mentioned the importance of alternatives to imprisonment. The need to reduce recidivism through evidence-based reintegration programmes was stressed by some speakers, as well as the importance of addressing organized crime in prisons. Other speakers cautioned against relying exclusively on punitive approaches.

7. Many speakers referred to the importance of prevention programmes addressing violence against children and strengthening children's protection and participation to promote a culture of lawfulness and non-violence. Programmes to foster values and behaviours that deviate from violent actions and that target risk factors and protective measures for youth were mentioned in this regard.

8. Addressing firearms-related violence was mentioned by some speakers, also recalling the need for disarmament programmes targeting firearms and ammunition. The need to implement international and regional frameworks against the illicit trafficking in firearms was also mentioned as well as the role that technology can play in promoting the efficiency of firearms traceability and registries.

9. Some speakers addressed the importance of focusing public policies on the structural causes of criminality, protecting and promoting human rights. Speakers underscored the importance of regulating the use of force by law enforcement, highlighting the disproportionate and excessive use of force on persons suffering from multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination. The need to address racism and xenophobia was also mentioned.

10. The challenges for international cooperation on investigation of cases of child sexual abuse and trafficking in persons, which often occur through social media networks, were also mentioned.

Outcome of deliberations

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

(a) Support new research, enhance partnerships with civil society, promote meaningful engagement with impacted communities and exchange knowledge and good practices between and within countries on evidence-based and data-driven crime prevention strategies;

(b) Promote approaches that take a holistic view of safety and seek to build communities where everyone is safe, has a sense of belonging, opportunities to participate, and where individuals and families can meet their needs for education, healthcare, food, housing, income, and social and cultural expression, now and in the future;

(c) Promote the use of disaggregated data to support fair, inclusive and effective decision-making in the development of criminal justice responses, including crime prevention initiatives, with a view to reducing the overrepresentation of marginalized groups, people in vulnerable situations and indigenous communities in the criminal justice system;

(d) Fund projects addressing risk and protective factors among persons in vulnerable situations, reducing violence in poor communities through public policies relating to education, culture, sports, health, and socioeconomic development as mechanisms to prevent crime and promote a culture of lawfulness;

(e) Develop and make responsible use of innovative technological tools to strengthen transparency and implementation of evidence-based strategies to prevent crime, with the objective of generating integrated and inter-agency responses that consider the variety of factors that contribute to criminal activity;

(f) Address and prevent child sexual abuse and child sexual exploitation, including online and in the context of tourism, by elaborating awareness-raising programmes, supporting efforts to reduce the stigma associated with reporting such crimes, as well as developing strategies to transform knowledge, attitudes and cultural practices that justify or tolerate the supply and demand for child sexual abuse and child sexual exploitation material;

(g) Facilitate the exchange of experiences and best practices for the prevention of child sexual abuse and child sexual exploitation and the protection of and assistance to victims, especially in border areas, and advance collaboration with relevant stakeholders, including private sector service providers, to remove child sexual abuse and child sexual exploitation material from their platforms;

(h) Ensure that domestic legal frameworks prevent victims of trafficking in persons from being prosecuted;

(i) Address discrimination and xenophobia against migrants, including women migrants, regardless of their migratory status and increase efforts to create regular pathways for migration as a means to prevent crime;

(j) Strengthen programmes to prevent violence against children through multisectoral policies promoting children's rights as well as consider adopting differentiated approaches for children and adolescents, in line with their evolving capabilities and with the Convention on the Rights of the Child;

(k) Develop anti-discrimination security policies that prevent racial profiling and disproportionate use of force against marginalized communities, ensuring that criminal justice systems afford equal protection under the law; and strengthen legal frameworks and accountability mechanisms for the use of force by law enforcement, in compliance with international human rights standards, incorporating accountability mechanisms, while addressing racial profiling and ensuring equal protection for all communities;

(l) Support tertiary prevention aiming at the rehabilitation and reintegration of offenders including within correctional institutions, as well as expand public-private partnerships to provide sustainable employment and social reintegration opportunities for persons in vulnerable situations;

(m) Strengthen the criminal justice response to gender-based violence, address the environments and conditions conducive to gender-based violence, create supporting environments for victims of domestic violence and their families to minimize secondary victimization when in contact with the justice system, and strengthen gender-responsive criminal justice addressing the specific needs of women, as well as promote gender parity in the criminal justice system;

(n) Strengthen the capacity of institutions responsible for combatting the illicit trafficking in firearms, including by enhancing border controls and consider using advanced technologies for registration, control and traceability, and address

corruption within criminal justice systems to strengthen the trust of citizens in institutions;

(o) Strengthen financial intelligence units and the banking sector to identify suspicious payments and the blocking of payments made by those suspected of committing crimes.
