



# General Assembly

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

San José, 4–6 February 2025

### Draft report

*Rapporteur:* Rodrigo Bertoglio Cardoso (Brazil)

## Report of the Latin American and Caribbean 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 Latin American and Caribbean Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Fifteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice was held in San José from 4 to 6 February 2025.

#### **B. Attendance**

8. The following States members of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean were represented at the Meeting: Argentina, Barbados, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, France, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Italy, Mexico, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Trinidad and Tobago, Türkiye, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America and Uruguay.

9. Luxembourg, Russian Federation, United Arab Emirates and Viet Nam, 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 United Nations Development Programme.

11. The following institutes of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme network were represented by observers: Latin American Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (ILANUD) and International Centre for Criminal Law Reform & Criminal Justice Policy (ICCL & CJP).

12. The following non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council were represented by observers: Asistencia Legal por los Derechos Humanos, Asociación Civil; Association for the Prevention of Torture; CEDAW Committee of Trinidad and Tobago; Fin de la Esclavitud, Asociación Civil; Fundación Ciudadanía y Desarrollo; Global Initiative against Transnational

Organized Crime; Housing Works Inc.; Instituto Brasileiro de Direitos Humanos; IPANDETEC Centroamérica; The International Legal Foundation, Ltd.; Research Centre for Feminist Action (CIPAF); Verein von Nichtregierungsorganisationen für Verbrechensprävention und Strafrechtspflege.

### C. Opening of the Meeting

13. The Latin American and Caribbean Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Fifteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice was opened on 4 February 2025 by the Secretary of the Meeting.

14. The Minister of Justice of Costa Rica emphasized the importance of finding urgent, sustainable and innovative solutions to achieve peaceful societies. He highlighted the need for evidence-based strategies on crime prevention and criminal justice, for promoting a culture of lawfulness, and for combating corruption and increasing the credibility of public institutions and justice systems.

15. The Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs and Worship of Costa Rica referred to the Crime Congress as an opportunity for the international community to find strategies on addressing crime-related challenges, including relating to climate change, and achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. He emphasized the need to incorporate a gender perspective and to adopt human rights-based approaches in crime prevention strategies.

16. 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.

17. 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.

18. The United Nations Resident Coordinator in Costa Rica mentioned how transnational organized crime fuels violence around the world and stressed the importance of multilateral cooperation to face this challenge, of justice systems that prioritize rehabilitation and reintegration, and of human-rights compliant frameworks to address cybercrime.

19. The Director of the International Police Representation Department, representing the United Arab Emirates as the Host Country of the Fifteenth Congress, highlighted linkages between different types of crime and financial crimes, referred to the need of protecting vulnerable members of society, of leveraging technology to combat crime and of safeguarding people and the planet against crimes that affect the environment.

20. 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 Latin America and the Caribbean regional youth consultation in a video message, elaborated in A/CONF.241/RPM.2/CRP.2.

### D. Election of officers

21. At its 1st meeting, on 4 February 2025, the Meeting elected, by acclamation, the following officers:

*Chair:* H.E. Minister of Justice Gerald Campos Valverde (Costa Rica)

*Vice-Chair:* Erin Leslie McKey (Canada)

*Rapporteur:* Rodrigo Bertoglio Cardoso (Brazil)

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

22. Also at its 1st meeting, the Meeting adopted its provisional agenda ([A/CONF.241/RPM.2/1](#)), 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

23. The 1st to 3rd meetings from 4 to 5 February were chaired by Gerald Campos Valverde (Costa Rica), the 4th meeting on 5 February was chaired by Erin McKey (Canada), and discussions during the 5th and 6th meetings on 6 February were facilitated by Douglas Durán (ILANUD Director), on behalf of Gerald Campos Valverde (Costa Rica).

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

24. At its 6th meeting, on 6 February 2025, the Meeting considered and adopted its report ([A/CONF.241/RPM.2/L.1](#), [A/CONF.241/RPM.2/L.1/Add.1](#), [A/CONF.241/RPM.2/L.1/Add.2](#), [A/CONF.241/RPM.2/L.1/Add.3](#), [A/CONF.241/RPM.2/L.1/Add.4](#) and [A/CONF.241/RPM.2/L.1/Add.5](#)), as orally amended.

## Annex

### List of documents

<a href="#">A/CONF.241/PM.1</a>	Discussion guide
<a href="#">A/CONF.241/RPM.2/1</a>	Annotated provisional agenda
<a href="#">A/CONF.241/RPM.2/L.1</a> and Add.1–5	Draft report
<a href="#">A/CONF.241/RPM.2/INF.2</a>	List of participants
<a href="#">A/CONF.241/PM/CRP.1</a>	Conference room paper entitled “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 entitled “Recommendations of the Expert Group Meeting on Equal Access to Justice for All, held in Brasilia, Brazil from 9 to 11 December 2024”
<a href="#">A/CONF.241/RPM.2/CRP.1</a>	Conference room paper submitted by the Latin American Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (ILANUD) entitled “Reporte de la Reunión Consultiva Regional de América Latina y el Caribe para avanzar en la aplicación de las Reglas de las Naciones Unidas para el tratamiento de las reclusas y medidas no privativas de la libertad para las mujeres delincuentes (Reglas de Bangkok), realizada en San José, Costa Rica, del 25 al 27 de noviembre de 2024”
<a href="#">A/CONF.241/RPM.2/CRP.2</a>	Conference room paper submitted by the UNODC Generation Justice initiative entitled “Recommendations from the Generation Justice youth consultation in Latin-America and the Caribbean”