



Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

Kyoto, Japan, 20–27 April 2020

Report of the European Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, held in Vienna from 23 to 25 April 2019

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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 [73/184](#), the General Assembly reiterated its request to the Secretary-General to proceed with the organization of the four regional preparatory meetings for the Fourteenth 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 Fourteenth Congress itself, in accordance with past practice, as well as to make a special effort to organize the regional preparatory meeting for European and other States so as to benefit from their input. In the same resolution, the Assembly again encouraged the relevant specialized agencies and programmes of the United Nations 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 Fourteenth 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 Fourteenth Congress and for the Congress itself in a timely manner, and invited Member States to be actively involved in that process.
5. At its twenty-seventh session, the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice considered the draft discussion guide. In its resolution [73/184](#), 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 Fourteenth Congress to be held as early as possible in 2019. The finalized discussion guide ([A/CONF.234/PM.1](#)) was published in September 2018.
6. In its resolution [72/192](#), the General Assembly encouraged Governments to undertake preparations for the Fourteenth 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 [73/184](#), 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 Fourteenth Congress and to make action-oriented recommendations to serve as a basis for the draft recommendations and conclusions for consideration by the Congress.

II. Conclusions and recommendations

7. The Secretary of the European Regional Preparatory Meeting recalled that the main theme, agenda items and workshops of the Fourteenth Congress had been carefully identified by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and

adopted by the General Assembly. In that regard, she highlighted that, building on the success of the Thirteenth Congress and in accordance with General Assembly resolution 71/206, all efforts had been made to ensure that the overall theme, agenda items and workshop topics were streamlined. She 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 preparations for and 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.

8. Presentations were delivered by representatives of the Secretariat introducing the main theme, substantive agenda items and workshop topics.

9. Stemming from the meeting, the following summary of deliberations was prepared and recommendations were identified, which were not negotiated by the participants.

A. Main theme of the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice: “Advancing crime prevention, criminal justice and the rule of law: towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda”

Summary of deliberations

10. In undertaking a reflective historical exercise, participants in the Meeting noted that since the Fourth United Nations Congress, held in Kyoto, Japan, in 1970, enhanced and strengthened efforts had been undertaken by the international community to prevent and counter crime. Such efforts included the adoption of important crime prevention and criminal justice standards and norms, as well as the entry into force and implementation of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988, the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, the United Nations Convention against Corruption and a number of anti-terrorism instruments. Although those developments were evidence of advancements made over the years in the area of crime prevention and criminal justice, 50 years later, crime, terrorism and violence continued to persist and flourish. Participants highlighted that, despite the efforts of the international community to prevent and combat crime since the Fourth United Nations Crime Congress, the phenomenon continued to evolve owing to the modus operandi of criminal organizations, which often targeted weak institutions in order to operate with impunity.

11. The participants discussed the fact that the similarities in the issues facing the international crime prevention and criminal justice community made the Fourteenth Congress an opportune forum to discuss innovative and progressive solutions to ensure enhanced and strengthened crime prevention and criminal justice responses that uphold the principles of the rule of law, justice, international law and human rights.

12. It was noted that there was a growing consensus that the rule of law was the foundation needed for sustainable development, and that the criminal justice systems and the institutions comprising them were fundamental infrastructures for the achievement of the goals and targets established in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular, but not limited to, Sustainable Development Goal 16. Some participants noted that some important criminal justice concerns had not been included in the 2030 Agenda and expressed the view that the 2030 Agenda was a

complementary framework. Advancing crime prevention, criminal justice and the rule of law was to be considered as a value in and of itself, even in the most developed societies.

13. It was also noted that, for the rule of law to prevail and for a peaceful, just and safe society to be established, building trust and confidence among the general public in the law and its enforcement and fostering a culture of lawfulness were essential. The importance of involving all relevant stakeholders, including civil society, to complement the work of governmental institutions, was also mentioned.

14. The importance of focusing on the work of criminal justice practitioners was underscored. As such, providing the necessary resources and capacity-building and appropriate training for practitioners and strengthening international cooperation at the practitioner level were identified as critical factors in advancing crime prevention and criminal justice, including in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The importance of strengthening the collection of crime data and the exchange of information was also mentioned.

15. The important role of UNODC as a fundamental partner in assisting Member States in the area of crime prevention and criminal justice and the central mandate of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice were stressed.

Outcome of deliberations

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

(a) Focus the discussion at the Fourteenth Congress on the most urgent crime and security threats and criminal justice challenges, as experienced by national practitioners, academia and civil society. Consider thereby the challenges encountered in upholding the principles of the rule of law, human rights, peace and justice, in particular when confronted with the threats of crime, violence, corruption and terrorism in all their forms and manifestations;

(b) Strengthen coordination and cooperation between Governments, as well as among governmental authorities, the United Nations and other intergovernmental organizations, and other stakeholders, including the private sector and civil society, to ensure a multi-stakeholder approach to crime prevention and criminal justice, including in the implementation of the relevant Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

(c) Promote strengthened cooperation between criminal justice practitioners and relevant stakeholders and promote public-private partnerships in crime prevention efforts. In this regard, the role of partnerships was underpinned as key in ensuring a multi-stakeholder approach that included non-traditional criminal justice sectors such as the education, health and social welfare sectors. In addition, partnerships with the local community and the private sector were considered important in strengthening public support for more effective government initiatives on crime prevention;

(d) Support UNODC in continuing and further strengthening its leading role in supporting Member States in the implementation of the commitments made in the outcome documents of the crime congresses and relevant resolutions, including through the provision of technical assistance and capacity-building and by drawing on its ability to provide a platform for dialogue among practitioners aimed at enhancing international cooperation in criminal matters and in disseminating evidence-based knowledge on crime-related matters, including comparative statistical data.

B. Substantive items and workshops

1. Comprehensive strategies for crime prevention towards social and economic development (agenda item 3); and evidence-based crime prevention: statistics, indicators and evaluation in support of successful practices (workshop 1)

Summary of deliberations

17. A number of participants expressed satisfaction with the attention being devoted to crime prevention in the substantive agenda of the Fourteenth Congress.

18. Participants in the Meeting confirmed that a comprehensive crime prevention strategy is a key element for social and economic development. Participants named various root causes and risk factors to be taken into account in the design of crime prevention strategies, in particular with regard to the background of offenders, such as age, lack of education, poverty, family problems, mental and physical health issues, and belonging to a minority group, including membership in the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community.

19. A number of participants stressed that crime prevention strategies should be developed with a special focus on children and youth at risk, and a targeted and individualized approach should be taken to address their vulnerability. Early detection of behaviour prone to crime and the involvement of the family in the treatment of young offenders were referred to as useful measures.

20. The need for a gender-sensitive approach was raised by many participants. It was noted that the empowerment of women was key to preventing sexual and gender-based violence and domestic violence. In addition, the importance of the participation of women at all levels of the criminal justice system was mentioned.

21. Reference was made to the prevention of environmental and wildlife crimes, which deny resources to legitimate users and communities and can pose obstacles to sustainable development, as an example of an effort to which comprehensive strategies should be applied, and it was proposed that the workshop on evidence-based crime prevention held during the Fourteenth Congress could explore how evidence-based information could be provided to potential actors in such crimes, including local communities and consumers, who may not be aware of the criminal nature of selling and buying products derived from such crimes.

22. The need for a comprehensive strategy to prevent corruption was mentioned, as corruption was considered to be a major obstacle to social and economic development and the upholding of human rights.

23. Reference was made to the Guidelines for cooperation and technical assistance in the field of urban crime prevention, which were adopted by the Economic and Social Council in 1995, and it was mentioned that, since then, gangs had been increasingly behaving like transnational organized criminal groups, and therefore, specialized and targeted approaches were needed to respond to gangs and other urban crime threats, in particular to prevent the recruitment and involvement of youth and to rehabilitate gang members as constructive members of society. The need to address new trends in drug trafficking and the need to prevent bias-motivated crimes, before they created cycles of hatred and violence or posed broader security challenges, were also mentioned.

24. Participants stressed that crime prevention strategies should be adapted to and implemented at all levels, including the national and local levels. Many participants highlighted the vital role of the community in crime prevention and referred to measures undertaken and good practices developed at the community level, ranging from education programmes to efforts aimed at breaking down the solidarity between criminal organizations and citizens. Participants mentioned that efforts by Governments to foster a culture of lawfulness in order to enhance public confidence in the law and its enforcement could contribute to the prevention of crime. Reference was made in that regard to the Guidelines for the Prevention of Crime.

25. Participants also underscored the need for the engagement and cooperation not only of law enforcement and criminal justice institutions but also of relevant stakeholders, such as educational institutions, the health-care sector, the welfare sector, social workers, faith-based organizations, private companies and non-governmental organizations.

26. Many participants noted that crime prevention strategies needed to be based on evidence. The International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes was mentioned as a useful tool developed by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and the Statistical Commission to facilitate the formulation of harmonized criteria for the collection of data. Reference was made to challenges faced in using such classifications in accordance with domestic legislation. Furthermore, it was mentioned that the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice could learn from the experience gained by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in gathering information during the follow-up to the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem, held in 2016.

27. The importance of exchanging information and identifying statistical tools relating to criminal offences, including in particular trafficking in human beings for the purpose of sexual exploitation and violence against women, was also highlighted.

Outcome of deliberations

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

(a) Develop comprehensive crime prevention strategies based on an understanding of the root causes of crime and associated risk factors, such as age, lack of education and the family and financial background of offenders, and address such factors in a holistic manner, in close cooperation with all relevant stakeholders, including the local community and civil society;

(b) Give due consideration to gender-related issues and the vulnerability of children and youth at risk in developing crime prevention strategies;

(c) Enhance the role of the community in developing and implementing comprehensive crime prevention strategies by taking measures such as community policing and fostering a culture of lawfulness, including through youth education and awareness-raising efforts aimed at fostering public trust in the law and its enforcement and at breaking down the solidarity between criminal organizations and citizens;

(d) Strengthen the cooperation of governmental actors with all relevant stakeholders, including educational institutions, the health-care sector, the welfare sector, social workers, faith-based organizations, private companies, academia and non-governmental organizations;

(e) Consider undertaking new strategic approaches at the national and international levels to analyse recent trends and best practices in preventing and countering, inter alia, environmental crime, wildlife crime, gangs and other urban crime threats, new trends in drug trafficking and bias-motivated crimes;

(f) Call on UNODC to give due consideration to the latest challenges faced by law enforcement authorities and to assist Member States in successfully addressing new crime trends;

(g) Strengthen the work of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, including with regard to data collection and analysis, and increase national efforts to collect and share gender- and age-disaggregated data on crime and criminal justice systems to support evidence-based crime prevention measures, including through monitoring and exchanging information on convictions resulting from various forms of illicit trafficking and violence against women.

2. Integrated approaches to challenges facing the criminal justice system (agenda item 4); and reducing reoffending: identifying risks and developing solutions (workshop 2)

Summary of deliberations

29. Participants shared their views on challenges facing the criminal justice system, which required interdisciplinary collaboration among various agencies and authorities at the domestic and international levels, and highlighted the importance of disseminating good practices to address those challenges. The participants discussed the need to improve communication within relevant agencies, and the need to integrate the efforts of law enforcement and judicial authorities with those of other public services, including in the areas of education, health and social protection.

30. Participants emphasized the importance of striking a balance between the rights of victims, suspects and offenders and the interests of society, which included ensuring a safe community environment and an effective criminal justice system. Participants highlighted the importance of victim-centred and trauma-informed approaches that included reparation and restitution mechanisms, participation in criminal proceedings and providing assistance to victims of crime, such as affording them prompt access to available services and clear information enabling them to easily identify the relevant authorities or services. The participants discussed the challenges faced in supporting victims of crime in cross-border cases, and the need to ensure protection of their rights in different jurisdictions. Lessons learned from the experience accumulated in supporting victims of trafficking in human beings could be applied in supporting victims of other types of crime. Restorative justice programmes were also mentioned as offering an opportunity for the involvement of victims and, as appropriate, the community.

31. Some participants noted the exceptional nature of imprisonment, which, in their view, was to be used as a measure of last resort, in particular for children in conflict with the law, and explored the need for increasing the use of non-custodial measures in appropriate cases, highlighting that the engagement of social welfare and education services was needed to address risk factors, in particular upon release from prison. The possible radicalization of prisoners and the management of radicalized detainees were identified as new issues that deserved further and in-depth attention.

32. Participants discussed useful programmes, including educational and professional training programmes, to reduce recidivism, and underscored the need to focus on young offenders with a view to preventing their entry into the criminal justice system.

33. Participants also underscored the usefulness of putting in place mechanisms allowing for the seizure of proceeds of crime and their subsequent confiscation, including non-conviction-based confiscation, as appropriate, noting that, in transnational criminal cases, the confiscation of assets needed to be accompanied, as appropriate, by their return. Participants further underscored the importance of promoting the use of confiscated assets for public and social purposes.

34. The participants considered fundamental the systematic gathering and analysis of data, disaggregated by gender and age, to inform evidence-based policies and programmes. Several speakers underscored the importance of collaboration with civil society in the planning and implementation of programmes aimed at making a social impact, such as those aimed at the social reintegration of offenders and the protection of victims' rights.

35. Participants highlighted the importance of incorporating gender perspectives in all sectors of the criminal justice system, including in the training of law enforcement and judicial authorities.

Outcome of deliberations

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

(a) Develop or strengthen multidisciplinary inter-agency cooperation mechanisms among sectors of the criminal justice system, involving, as appropriate, other relevant sectors of society;

(b) Promote victim-centred policies and strategies, including to address cross-border offences, and promote the exchange of good practices among agencies at the national and international levels;

(c) Strengthen community-based crime prevention and criminal justice, including through the development of coordination mechanisms at the local level that encourage the active participation of civil society organizations, educational institutions, law enforcement authorities, health professionals and social workers;

(d) Foster collaboration and information-sharing among law enforcement and criminal justice practitioners, as well as other relevant service providers;

(e) Consider promoting approaches that enhance the use of confiscated assets for public or social purposes, thus fostering community-based responses to crime;

(f) Undertake appropriate and comprehensive crime prevention and criminal justice strategies, policies and programmes that ensure that vulnerable members of society, such as women, children, the elderly, and physically and mentally disabled persons, are treated without discrimination or bias;

(g) Address the criminal misuse of information and communication technologies, including the use of the darknet for the commission of hate crimes;

(h) Strengthen the capacities of practitioners to handle cases involving women and children who have experienced violence, including domestic violence, and ensure that victims are given access to a comprehensive set of essential services;

(i) Promote the development and implementation of restorative justice programmes, in particular those involving children who are victims or who are within juvenile justice systems;

(j) Enhance the support provided by UNODC to Member States, upon request, in developing and implementing comprehensive policies and programmes aimed at reducing recidivism and fostering the rehabilitation and social reintegration of offenders, including through the exchange of good practices and evidence-based initiatives.

3. Multidimensional approaches by Governments to promoting the rule of law by, inter alia, providing access to justice for all; building effective, accountable, impartial and inclusive institutions; and considering social, educational and other relevant measures, including fostering a culture of lawfulness while respecting cultural identities, in line with the Doha Declaration (agenda item 5); and education and youth engagement as key to making societies resilient to crime (workshop 3)

Summary of deliberations

37. The participants in the Meeting underscored the importance of building effective, accountable and fair crime prevention and criminal justice systems at all levels, and the importance of providing technical assistance and capacity-building to practitioners working in the area of crime prevention and criminal justice to strengthen those systems and the institutions comprising them.

38. It was highlighted that prompt access to legal aid and legal assistance should be provided to all, including, among others, women, children and the elderly. Reference was made to the United Nations Principles and Guidelines on Access to Legal Aid in Criminal Justice Systems, as well as to regional instruments and initiatives.

39. Participants emphasized the importance of early identification of and contact with at-risk children and youth in order to prevent their entry into the criminal justice system. In that regard, participants highlighted that the Fourteenth Congress should explore best practices for helping youth in contact with the criminal justice system to transition away from criminal behaviour and become law-abiding citizens.

40. Partnerships with all relevant stakeholders and broad community support were highlighted as being key to addressing the victimization of children and preventing the involvement of youth in crime. Participants also highlighted the importance of showcasing and analysing good practices involving local education and youth service authorities, law enforcement authorities, civil society, community and faith-based organizations, and families.

41. The importance of upholding the rule of law and human rights in crime prevention and criminal justice was emphasized by participants.

42. Participants highlighted that a culture of lawfulness was key to national efforts to prevent and combat organized crime, corruption and violence.

Outcome of deliberations

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

(a) Focus on the urgent priority of building effective, accountable, impartial and inclusive criminal justice institutions, including through enhanced technical assistance;

(b) Integrate the objective of building effective, accountable, impartial and inclusive institutions into national and bilateral assistance efforts, as well as into the Office's global, regional and country-specific technical assistance programmes;

(c) Identify and promote practical solutions to facilitate fair and equal access to justice for all;

(d) Promote the exchange of good practices and experiences in preventing the victimization of children and youth, as well as in preventing their involvement in crime, including by promoting programmes that facilitate early contact between local law enforcement officials and youth;

(e) Provide regular updates on progress made at the domestic level in implementing global standards and norms in the area of crime prevention and criminal justice, including, inter alia, the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules), which include relevant provisions and minimum standards to ensure access to justice and procedural rights for suspects;

(f) Promote best practices regarding alternatives to incarceration, in particular for young offenders, and support programmes that have proved effective in keeping communities safe while reducing recidivism and minimizing disruption to families;

(g) Discuss the relationship between the rule of law and a culture of lawfulness during the preparations for and at the Fourteenth Congress, in order to spur a meaningful debate on that relationship, as well as on a culture of lawfulness as an important notion in the context of crime prevention.

4. International cooperation and technical assistance to prevent and address all forms of crime: (a) terrorism in all its forms and manifestations; and (b) new and emerging forms of crime (agenda item 6); and current crime trends, recent developments and emerging solutions, in particular new technologies as means for and tools against crime (workshop 4)

Summary of deliberations

44. The participants discussed modern criminal threats and challenges that could not be addressed without increasing efforts to enhance international cooperation, and also discussed dedicating resources to building the capacity of law enforcement and judicial authorities and other relevant stakeholders. Participants mentioned the need to improve the collection and dissemination of good practices in international cooperation, including in relation to modalities such as the transfer of sentenced persons, the transfer of proceedings, the recognition of foreign judgments, and law enforcement cooperation, including joint investigative teams and the use of special investigative techniques. Innovative instruments at the regional level, such as the European Arrest Warrant and the European Investigation Order, formal platforms for exchanges among national contact points, such as Eurojust and the European Judicial Network, and the newly created European Public Prosecutor's Office were mentioned as examples of good practices.

45. Participants highlighted the significance of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its Protocols, the United Nations Convention against Corruption, the international conventions and protocols against terrorism, and the three international drug control conventions, in particular the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988, as legal bases for international cooperation, in particular in relation to extradition, mutual legal assistance and asset recovery. In that connection, the view was expressed that the broad scope of application of the Organized Crime Convention could be better utilized in order to strengthen international cooperation to address new and emerging forms of crime. In addition, participants underscored the importance of building trust among counterparts for the successful handling of cases involving international cooperation.

46. Participants strongly emphasized the importance of combating terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. Cooperation with communication service providers was highlighted as essential for the detection and removal from the Internet of information that might incite terrorist acts. The Meeting highlighted the need to discuss measures aimed at the prevention and early detection of radicalization and the related promotion of a multidisciplinary approach with a focus on youth. The return of foreign terrorist fighters was mentioned as a new reality that posed challenges to law enforcement agencies. The importance of protecting citizens and infrastructure and reducing vulnerability to attacks, including through enhanced border control management capabilities on land, air and sea, was highlighted. The importance of bringing terrorists to justice and of prosecuting them was also highlighted. The need to address the nexus between terrorism and crime at the global level was noted.

47. Participants highlighted the fundamental importance for investigative and judicial agencies to target the proceeds of crime, including by using available instruments for the seizure, confiscation and return of illicit assets as means to detect and disrupt organized crime and terrorism-related groups. It was noted that the use of cryptocurrencies and other forms of alternative and virtual currencies presented new challenges in detecting and combating money-laundering, the financing of terrorism and other financial crimes. In that context, participants stressed the relevant role of financial intelligence units in addressing illicit financial flows, as well as the importance of building on the work of other forums, such as the Financial Action Task Force and relevant regional entities.

48. Participants emphasized the need to effectively prevent and fight corruption. The view was expressed that it was important to make best use of the recommendations and best practices identified in the peer reviews conducted within

the framework of the Mechanism for the Review of Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption.

49. Participants also emphasized the need to strengthen national legislation and related international cooperation on new challenges posed by criminal groups engaging in trafficking in drugs, human beings, firearms, cultural property and falsified medical products, in money-laundering and environmental crime, including illicit trafficking in wildlife, timber and forest products and illicit waste, and in illegal mining and fishery operations. Participants also mentioned the need to effectively combat child sexual exploitation and abuse, including when committed by means of the criminal misuse of information and communications technologies. Participants expressed the need for countries to address in a concerted manner the new threats posed by the darknet. The importance of strengthening the fight against the smuggling of migrants, including by disrupting organized criminal groups that facilitate irregular migration, was emphasized.

50. Some participants noted that the Congress should increase international coordination to deliver on commitments on trafficking in persons made within the context of the Sustainable Development Goals, and ensure that Governments and international agencies prioritized interventions and resources to combat trafficking in persons and support victims.

51. Participants welcomed the substantive work of the Expert Group to Conduct a Comprehensive Study on Cybercrime and looked forward to the implementation of its workplan for the period 2018–2021. Participants emphasized that priority should be given to providing capacity-building to relevant officials in order to strengthen the response to cybercrime. In that connection, participants underscored the key role of UNODC, as well as of regional entities, including the Council of Europe and the Organization of American States, in providing capacity-building upon request.

52. Some participants mentioned that international efforts should be dedicated to strengthening adherence to and implementation of existing international instruments, including multilateral treaties, such as those under the auspices of the European Union and the Council of Europe, including the Convention on Cybercrime (Budapest Convention). The view was also expressed that the current international framework in the areas of cybercrime and wildlife crime was insufficient and that new international legal and other responses were needed in that regard.

53. Some participants expressed their strong opposition to the use of the death penalty, in any circumstances, as a matter of principle, as they were of the view that the use of the death penalty undermined human dignity, that there was no conclusive evidence of its deterrent value, and that any miscarriage of justice leading to its imposition was irreversible and irreparable.

54. Some participants emphasized the need to uphold universal human rights and defend the full range of rights set out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and in international human rights treaties to which they were States parties. In addition, some participants underscored the role of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

55. Participants supported the promotion of tailor-made technical assistance programmes aimed at enhancing the expertise and technical capabilities of criminal justice and law enforcement authorities to address complex crime challenges. In that regard, partnerships with the private sector, academia and non-governmental organizations were encouraged. Participants underscored the leading role of UNODC as a technical assistance provider in such efforts, as well as the importance of building synergies with other relevant United Nations entities and international organizations, so as to avoid fragmentation and duplication of efforts.

Outcome of deliberations

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

(a) Effectively implement the provisions of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988, the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto, the United Nations Convention against Corruption and the international conventions and protocols against terrorism, to enhance international cooperation, including in relation to asset recovery. Encourage Member States that have not yet done so to consider becoming parties to those treaties;

(b) Review and strengthen national legal frameworks, as appropriate, to promote the implementation of commitments enshrined in United Nations conventions and other relevant international agreements, and make full use of their potential in responding to international cooperation requests;

(c) Continue supporting the establishment and functioning of central authorities responsible for dealing with international cooperation requests, and provide technical assistance to Member States, upon request, in order to enhance the capacity of practitioners to effectively and expeditiously deal with such requests;

(d) Assist Member States in establishing or strengthening regional and cross-regional law enforcement and judicial cooperation networks as platforms for the development and dissemination of specialized knowledge on new and emerging forms of crime, and facilitate the formal and informal exchange of information among relevant authorities;

(e) Underscore the importance of international cooperation to prevent and counter cyber-enabled crime, and of the role of law enforcement and criminal justice agencies in promoting and protecting an open, interoperable, reliable and secure Internet that supports shared values such as individual liberty, free expression, free markets and privacy;

(f) Consider how the criminal misuse of new communication and information technologies is affecting and shaping traditional forms of crime, including money-laundering, financial crimes and trafficking in drugs and human beings, and take the necessary action to counter such misuse;

(g) Discuss good practices in the use of new technologies by law enforcement to investigate and prosecute crimes and to enhance transparency and communication with the local community;

(h) Strengthen the work of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in the area of international cooperation, support the role of UNODC as a leading technical assistance provider and encourage UNODC to further build synergies with other relevant United Nations entities and international organizations, so as to avoid fragmentation and duplication of efforts.

C. Other issues

57. The following recommendations, which were not negotiated by the participants, were identified with regard to the structure and substance of the future Kyoto declaration:

(a) Ensure the continuity of the successful experience of finalizing the negotiations in Vienna on the future Kyoto declaration, for its adoption at the opening of the Fourteenth Congress. It was suggested that the preparatory process for the formulation of the future Kyoto declaration should be carried out in a timely manner and that a workplan and a timetable for the negotiations could be circulated in advance;

(b) Formulate the future Kyoto declaration as a short and concise document that sends a strong political message, thereby demonstrating the commitment of Member States at the highest level and the substantive input of technical experts in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice;

(c) Build on and carry forward the commitments reflected in the Doha Declaration on Integrating Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice into the Wider United Nations Agenda to Address Social and Economic Challenges and to Promote the Rule of Law at the National and International Levels, and Public Participation;

(d) Provide the future Kyoto declaration with a clear substantive structure, which could be built on the overall theme, agenda items and workshop topics of the Fourteenth Congress;

(e) Reflect in the future Kyoto declaration elements such as the need to: (i) reinforce that each Member State has the sovereign responsibility to protect its own citizens, to define and enforce criminal laws, to protect and promote human rights and to provide access to justice; (ii) strengthen international cooperation across borders; (iii) focus on public-private partnerships in the context of crime prevention and encourage Member States to take measures to foster a culture of lawfulness; and (iv) highlight the role of national law enforcement authorities and criminal justice practitioners in helping to inform global policy on crime prevention and criminal justice;

(f) Strengthen the role of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in advancing the implementation of the outcomes of the crime congresses, in particular the future Kyoto declaration, by providing a forum for the exchange of information on good practices, experiences, challenges faced and lessons learned in implementing the outcome documents of the crime congresses, including by holding intersessional meetings devoted to the follow-up to the future Kyoto declaration, as well as on ways to strengthen international cooperation, including in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

(g) Continue the good practice of organizing regional preparatory meetings for future crime congresses for States members of the Economic Commission for Europe in order to ensure a balanced regional perspective in the preparatory process, and consider reflecting the requirements for conference management services in the budgets of future crime congresses.

III. Attendance and organization of work

A. Date and venue of the Meeting

58. The European Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice was held in Vienna from 23 to 25 April 2019.

B. Attendance

59. The following States members of the Economic Commission for Europe were represented at the Meeting: Albania, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Cyprus, Czechia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Montenegro, Netherlands, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America.

60. Japan, Qatar and Sierra Leone were represented by observers. The European Union and the Holy See were also represented by observers.

61. The following entities of the United Nations system were represented by observers: International Organization for Migration and UNODC.

62. The following institutes of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme network were represented by observers: International Centre for the Prevention of Crime, International Scientific and Professional Advisory Council, and Asia and Far East Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders.

63. The following intergovernmental organizations were represented by observers: International Criminal Court and League of Arab States.

64. The following non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council were represented by observers: Association of the Bar of the City of New York, International Association of Applied Psychology, International Federation of Business and Professional Women, International Human Rights Observer, International Prison Chaplains Association, Open Society Foundation, Soroptimist International and Women's Federation for World Peace International.

C. Opening of the Meeting

65. The European Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice was opened on 23 April 2019 by the Secretary of the Meeting.

66. The Executive Secretary of the Fourteenth Congress, speaking on behalf of the Executive Director of UNODC, highlighted the importance of the United Nations congresses on crime prevention and criminal justice as a vital forum for taking stock of and assessing preparedness to deal with challenges and emerging threats and for undertaking a periodic review of crime-related standards and norms. Reference was made to the fact that the Fourteenth Congress would be held in Kyoto, Japan, where the Fourth Congress, the first Congress to be preceded by regional preparatory meetings, had been held 50 years previously. Since that time, the regional preparatory meetings had played a meaningful role in examining the substantive agenda items and topics of the workshops, and in making action-oriented recommendations from a regional perspective. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution [73/184](#), the Secretariat had made a special effort to facilitate the organization of the European Regional Preparatory Meeting, the first one held since 1995. The outcome of the Meeting would plant the seeds for the Kyoto declaration in 2020. He referred to the support provided by the host country of the Thirteenth Congress, held in Doha in 2015, for the follow-up process. He emphasized that the Thirteenth Congress had been focused on the mutually reinforcing relationship between the rule of law and sustainable development, and that its political outcome had been well reflected in Sustainable Development Goal 16. The Fourteenth Congress, which would be held five years after the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, would provide an opportunity to take stock of and formulate practical and operational recommendations for action in support of peaceful and just societies.

67. A minute of silence to honour the memory of Mr. Dimitri Vlassis was observed at the opening of the Meeting

D. Election of officers

68. At its 1st meeting, on 23 April 2019, the Meeting elected, by acclamation, the following officers:

Chair: Alena Kupchyna (Belarus)

Vice-Chair: Lucie Angers (Canada)

Rapporteur: Luigi Ripamonti (Italy)

E. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

69. Also at its 1st meeting, the Meeting adopted its provisional agenda (A/CONF.234/RPM.5/L.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 Fourteenth Congress: “Advancing crime prevention, criminal justice and the rule of law: towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda”.
5. Substantive items on the agenda and the topics of the workshops of the Fourteenth Congress:
 - (a) Comprehensive strategies for crime prevention towards social and economic development (agenda item 3); and evidence-based crime prevention: statistics, indicators and evaluation in support of successful practices (workshop 1);
 - (b) Integrated approaches to challenges facing the criminal justice system (agenda item 4); and reducing reoffending: identifying risks and developing solutions (workshop 2);
 - (c) Multidimensional approaches by Governments to promoting the rule of law by, inter alia, providing access to justice for all; building effective, accountable, impartial and inclusive institutions; and considering social, educational and other relevant measures, including fostering a culture of lawfulness while respecting cultural identities, in line with the Doha Declaration (agenda item 5); and education and youth engagement as key to making societies resilient to crime (workshop 3);
 - (d) International cooperation and technical assistance to prevent and address all forms of crime: (a) terrorism in all its forms and manifestations; and (b) new and emerging forms of crime (agenda item 6); and current crime trends, recent developments and emerging solutions, in particular new technologies as means for and tools against crime (workshop 4).
6. Recommendations for the Fourteenth Congress.
7. Adoption of the report on the Meeting.

70. 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

71. The 1st, 5th and 6th meetings, on 23 and 25 April, were chaired by Ms. Kupchyna and the 2nd to 4th meetings, on 23 and 24 January, were chaired by Ms. Angers.

F. Other matters

72. A representative of Japan, the host country of the Fourteenth Congress, gave a briefing, which included a video presentation, to the participants about the organizational and substantive preparations for the Fourteenth Congress and the Youth Forum that would precede it. He provided some information about Kyoto, the city that would host the Fourteenth Congress. He also provided an overview of the deliberations and outcome of the Fourth Congress, which had been held in the same

city in 1970 and had resulted, for the first time, in the adoption of a political declaration.

73. The observer for the Asia and Far East Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders made a statement, providing information about the Institute's preparations for the workshops and activities to be held at the Fourteenth Congress. He encouraged Member States to consider including in their delegations experts who could offer substantive expertise to the deliberations during the workshops. He referred to the Institute's efforts to build an international network of alumni, and encouraged the active participation of alumni from various countries.

74. The observer for the International Scientific and Professional Advisory Council gave a presentation on the arrangements for the ancillary meetings to be held during the Fourteenth Congress.

IV. Adoption of the report and closure of the Meeting

75. At its 6th meeting, on 25 April 2019, the Meeting considered and adopted its report ([A/CONF.234/RPM.5/L.2](#), [A/CONF.234/RPM.5/L.2/Add.1](#), [A/CONF.234/RPM.5/L.2/Add.2](#), [A/CONF.234/RPM.5/L.2/Add.3](#) and [A/CONF.234/RPM.5/L.2/Add.4](#)).

Annex

List of documents

A/CONF.234/PM.1	Discussion guide
A/CONF.234/RPM.5/L.1	Annotated provisional agenda
A/CONF.234/RPM.5/L.2 and Add.1–4	Draft report
A/CONF.234/RPM.5/INF/2	List of participants
A/CONF.234/PM/CRP.1	Note by the Secretariat entitled “From policy directives to concrete results: a quinquennial strategic operational road map”
