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United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

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The Secretary-General of the United Nations presents his compliments to the and has the honour to inform the Government that the Regional Preparatory Meeting for Western Asia for the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice will be held at the seat of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), in Beirut, Lebanon, from 26 to 28 March 2019. Interpretation to Arabic and English will be available during the Meeting. The Fourteenth Congress will be held in Kyoto, Japan, from 20 to 27 April 2020, with pre-session consultations on 19 April 2020.

The Regional Preparatory Meeting will have before it a combined discussion guide on the substantive agenda items and the workshop topics to be covered by the Congress, prepared by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in cooperation with the institutes of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme network.

The provisional agenda for the Congress, as approved in General Assembly resolution 72/192 of 19 December 2017, provides the basis for the provisional agenda for the Regional Preparatory Meeting, which is as follows:

1. Opening of the Congress.
2. Organizational matters.
3. Comprehensive strategies for crime prevention towards social and economic development.
4. Integrated approaches to challenges facing the criminal justice system.
5. 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.

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6. International cooperation and technical assistance to prevent and address all forms of crime:
 - (a) Terrorism in all its forms and manifestations;
 - (b) New and emerging forms of crime.
7. Adoption of the report of the Congress.

In the same resolution, the Assembly decided that the following issues will be considered by the workshops within the framework of the Fourteenth Congress:

1. Evidence-based crime prevention: statistics, indicators and evaluation in support of successful practices;
2. Reducing reoffending: identifying risks and developing solutions;
3. Education and youth engagement as key to making societies resilient to crime;
4. Current crime trends, recent developments and emerging solutions, in particular new technologies as means for and tools against crime.

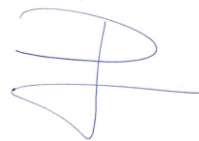
The Regional Preparatory Meeting is invited to examine the substantive agenda items and workshop topics of the Congress from a regional perspective and to make action-oriented recommendations to serve as a basis for the draft recommendations and conclusions for consideration by the Congress.

Meeting documents in the relevant languages can be accessed through the following Internet address: <http://www.unodc.org/congress/en/regional-preparation.html>

The Government is hereby invited to participate in the Regional Preparatory Meeting for Western Asia for the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. The Government is furthermore encouraged to give due consideration to gender parity and inclusion of youth in the composition of its delegation to the Meeting.

The Secretary-General would appreciate being informed, as soon as possible and not later than **11 March 2019**, of the composition of the Government's delegation to attend the meeting, including full name(s), title(s), address(es), facsimile and/or telephone number(s), and e-mail address(es), which should be provided directly to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Vienna International Centre, 1400 Vienna, Austria, facsimile: +43-1-26060-5885, e-mail address: unodc-congress.prep.mtg@un.org.

25 January 2019



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