



Concept Note
Special Event at the 14th UN Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice
Sunday, 7 March 2021
Kyoto International Conference Centre (KICC)
Kyoto, Japan
Conference Room A
2:00 – 3:30 p.m. (GMT+9)

Promoting the Rule of Law and Justice: Innovative implementation of the Doha Declaration towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Background

The 13th UN Crime Congress held in Doha, Qatar in 2015 was a point of departure in the history of UN Crime Congresses. For the first time in the 60-year history of the Crime Congresses, its political declaration was used as a basis for the development of a unique Global Programme to implement the policy directives as contained in the Declaration, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 70/174.

The Doha Declaration called for the integration of crime prevention and criminal justice into the broader agenda of the United Nations. It emphasized that the rule of law and sustainable development are interrelated and mutually reinforcing and stressed the fundamental role of youth participation in crime prevention efforts. This important focus continues to be at the centre of the future Kyoto Declaration.

The Global Programme for the Implementation for the Doha Declaration, established in 2016 by UNODC with the support of the State of Qatar, was set out to transform the policy directives contained in the Declaration into concrete tangible realities, directly contributing to the implementation of SDGs 3,4, 5, 9, 10, 11,16 and 17.

The Global Programme provides support to the development of operational, legislative and policy-related work required by Member States to implement the Doha Declaration in four specific areas contained therein, namely: Judicial Integrity, Prisoner Rehabilitation, Youth Crime Prevention through Sports and the Education for Justice (E4J). It promotes evidence-based and holistic approaches and assists countries to achieve a positive and sustainable impact on crime prevention, criminal justice, corruption prevention, and the rule of law.

Making the world safer from drugs, crime and terrorism

In this regard, the programmatic approach taken was not only to generate policy support from Member States, but to also build partnerships with various relevant stakeholders, including crime prevention and criminal justice professionals and institutions, international organizations, schools and higher education institutions, sport and youth sector, civil society organizations and the private sector. It is evident that in order to create networks of collaboration for the rule of law and to ensure strategic communications, efforts should be made to foster youth engagement, women empowerment, multilingualism and innovation while ensuring that no one is left behind, in line with the “Decade of Action” announced by the UN Secretary-General. This multifaceted, inclusive and collaborative approach was an asset to adapt to the COVID-19 pandemic and to continue implementing the Programme through innovative initiatives and with partners worldwide.

The Global Programme has been referenced to as a successful technical assistance-led Programme in 260 UN official documents. A recent independent evaluation confirmed that it was highly relevant to UNODC’s mandates and stakeholders and contributing to the achievements of the SDGs. It commended its high visibility, political linkages, innovative thinking and outcome-orientation, as well as the opportunities created by partnerships and peer-to-peer collaboration in established networks.

Since its launch, the Global Programme has gained significant traction in its implementation and achievements. The international community has welcomed its components with great enthusiasm and its activities have resulted in impactful stories that have reverberated in different countries around the globe. To date, over 2.1 million people from over 190 countries have been either directly or indirectly impacted by the Programme.

Objective of the event

This event will explore how Member States, the United Nations system and all relevant stakeholders can actively and innovatively promote the rule of law and justice among partners, children, youth and people from all over the world to pave the way towards the objectives of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.

Focus will also be placed on the achievements of the Global Programme since its inception, while sharing tangible stories and actions, including by beneficiaries of the work undertaken by the Global Programme, which will highlight the results achieved around the world so far on the journey from Doha to Kyoto.

Format of the event

Keynote speeches and an interactive panel discussion will be supplemented with short documentary films on the Programme’s key achievements.

Interventions from the floor will be encouraged through questions and comments directly linked to the subject issue of the special event.

Speakers

Keynote speakers:

- H. E. Mr. Volkan Bozkır, President of the United Nations General Assembly (tbc)
- Ms. Ghada Waly Executive Director, UNODC

Moderator:

- Mr. John Brandolino, Director, Division for Treaty Affairs, UNODC

Panellists:

- Ministerial Representative from the State of Qatar (tbc)
- Ministerial Representative from Japan (tbc)
- H.E. Mr. Shermatov Sherzod Hotamovich, Minister of Public Education, Republic of Uzbekistan (tbc)
- Hon. Frans Kapofi, MP. Minister of Home Affairs, Immigration, Safety and Security, Republic of Namibia (tbc)
- Ms. Audrey Azoulay, Director General, UNESCO (tbc)
- Hon. Adrian Saunders, President of the Caribbean Court of Justice and member of the Advisory Board of the UNODC Global Judicial Integrity Network (tbc)
- Youth representatives: Tolibion Mustafoev and Ashar Taimur (tbc)
- Mr. Marco Teixeira, Senior Programme Officer, Coordinator of the Global Programme for the Implementation of the Doha Declaration, UNODC