



2021 Kyoto Crime Congress: High-Level Side Event Concept Note

Title: *Youth and the Rule of Law: Effective agents of change*

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Background

Today, there are approximately 1.8 billion people between the ages of 10-24, which is the largest generation of youth in history. Close to 90% of these young people live in developing countries, where they make up a large proportion of the population. Further, this demographic is only expected to grow, with about 1.9 billion young people are projected to turn 15 years old between 2015 and 2030. Connected to each other like never before, young people want to, and already contribute to, the resilience of their communities, proposing innovative solutions, driving social progress and inspiring political change. They are also agents of change, mobilizing to advance the Sustainable Development Goals to improve the lives of people and the health of the planet. The Strategic Planning and Inter-Agency Affairs (SPIA) Unit seeks to leverage the inputs of youth in order to improve the UNODC's mandate to reduce crime and violence through a high-level side event at the 2021 Kyoto Crime Congress.

Objectives

This multisectoral, inter-generational event will bring together youth participants – including young policy makers – UN officials and high-level representatives to emphasize and discuss the role of youth in promoting and strengthening the rule of law. The goal of this high-level event is to identify some keyways in which youth influence could be strengthened in policy making processes at the global level and to showcase their role as agents of change to strengthen the rule of law.

Envisaged Participants

The panel will be composed of two young parliamentarians (one from Kenya and one from Brazil), a Japanese Member of Parliament, a youth representative from the Education for Justice initiative as well as a young participant from the Japanese Youth Forum held prior to the congress. An invitation will also be extended to the Secretary General's Envoy for Youth, Ms. Jayathma Wickramanayake. The moderator will be a UNODC representative who will be in Kyoto for the time of the event and has knowledge and insight into youth-related issues. Emphasis will be placed on having a gender-balanced panel that also represents different global regions.

Format

Panellists will be able to attend in person and remotely, via video statement or live video, in order to make the event more accessible due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The event will start with introductions, followed by a discussion surrounding youth and the rule of law. Panellists will make statements, pulling from personal anecdotes on how young people can make a

positive impact to strengthen the rule of law and enhance resilience in their communities. The event will also include a brief discussion element for people attending in person and virtually.

Outcome

With the Secretary General’s growing emphasis on youth engagement, it is critical that all parts of the UN system provide opportunities for meaningful participation by young people. An event like this would build on the momentum generated by the Japanese Youth Forum, hosted prior to the Congress, and yield concrete suggestions on how young people can be heard, more effectively and more consistently, regarding international crime prevention and criminal justice policies.