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Organizational session for 1980
Agenda item 4. Sixth United Nations
Congress on the Prevention of Crime and
the Treatment of Offenders

Note by the Secretary-General

1. The Sixth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders is scheduled to be held at Caracas, Venezuela, from 25 August to 5 September 1980.

2. The provisional rules of procedure for United Nations congresses on the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders were approved by the Economic and Social Council in decision 1979/25 of 9 May 1979. Rules 27 and 43 read as follows:

"Rule 27

"The Congress shall consider the agenda items approved by the Economic and Social Council on the recommendation of the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control."

"Rule 43

"There shall be as many sections of the whole as may be approved from time to time by the Economic and Social Council on the recommendation of the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control. Each section may set up subsections and working groups, to the extent permitted by available facilities."

Provisional rules of procedure

3. The provisional rules of procedure for United Nations congresses on the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders approved by the Council (see para. 2 above), provide for the establishment of sections of the whole, subsections and working groups. Whenever the words "sections" and "subsections" are used in the provisional rules, these words in effect mean "committees of the whole" and "sub-committees". With a view to bringing the terminology used in the provisional rules into conformity with that used in similar rules of procedure of

other United Nations bodies, the Council may wish to revise the approved provisional rules of procedure by substituting the words "committee" and "sub-committee" for the words "section" and subsection".

Provisional agenda and organization of work of the
Sixth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of
Crime and the Treatment of Offenders

4. Pursuant to paragraph 2 of General Assembly resolution 32/60 of 8 December 1977, the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control, at its fifth session in June 1978, recommended that the following five topics should be considered by the Sixth Congress (see E/CN.5/558, paras. 51-54): 1/

- (a) Crime trends and crime prevention strategies;
- (b) Juvenile justice: before and after the onset of delinquency;
- (c) Crime and the abuse of power: offences and offenders beyond the reach of the law;
- (d) Deinstitutionalization of corrections and its implications for the residual prisoner;
- (e) United Nations norms and guidelines in criminal justice: from standard-setting to implementation.

5. Pursuant to paragraph 5 of Assembly resolution 32/61 of 8 December 1977, the Committee also decided that "the various aspects of the use of capital punishment and the possible restriction thereof, including a more generous application of rules relating to pardon, commutation or reprieve" might be considered as a subtopic under "United Nations norms and guidelines in criminal justice: from standard-setting to implementation", and that this subtopic might be considered by a working group (*ibid.*, paras. 64 and 65). In view of the proposed organization of work of the Congress, as set forth in paragraph 7 below, the Secretary-General proposes that capital punishment be considered by section I.

6. The Secretary-General would like to propose an additional item for inclusion in the provisional agenda for the Sixth Congress, entitled "New perspectives in crime prevention and criminal justice and development: the role of international co-operation". In this connexion, reference is made to resolution 1584 (L) in which the Council referred to the serious threat that criminality presents to the quality of economic and social development and to the wholesomeness of economic and social progress and social change. Further, in paragraph 1 of resolution 32/58, the General Assembly took note of the report of the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control on methods and ways likely to be most effective in preventing crime and improving the treatment of offenders (E/CN.5/536, annex IV) as a guideline for future United Nations activities directed towards the prevention of crime. In that report, the

1/ For a more detailed discussion of the topics, see the report of the Committee on its fourth session (E/CN.5/536), paras. 48-63.

Committee had emphasized the need for the formulation of "more effective crime prevention policies in order to enable /Governments/ to deal with the ever changing challenge of crime, particularly in view of the goals of the Second United Nations Development Decade, whose primary objective has been proclaimed to be the enhancement of the quality of life" (*ibid.*, para. 4). Documentary and other requirements for this additional item would be absorbed within the resources already provided for the Congress. ^{2/} Should the Council agree to the inclusion of the additional item, it might be taken up in a working group.

7. The draft provisional agenda for the Sixth Congress, as recommended by the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control (with the proposed additional item referred to in para. 6 above), as well as the documentation to be submitted to the Congress, is reproduced in the annex to the present note for the consideration and approval of the Council. Since the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control is not scheduled to meet until September 1980, after the Sixth Congress has taken place, the Secretary-General would like to recommend to the Economic and Social Council, on the basis of the recommendations adopted by the Committee at its fourth and fifth sessions, that the Congress should be organized as follows:

(a) Two sections would be set up to consider items 3 to 8 of the provisional agenda:

Section I would consider items 3 and 7 and would hold 16 meetings. A working group of section I would consider item 8 and would hold three meetings;

Section II would consider items 4, 5 and 6 and would hold 19 meetings;

(b) Three plenary meetings would be held for organizational matters and for the adoption of the report of the Congress.

8. Among the activities which the Secretary-General proposes to undertake in conjunction with the Congress are the following:

(a) Ancillary meetings of non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council;

(b) Meetings for professional and geographical interest groups;

(c) Lectures to be given by experts selected on the basis of equitable geographical distribution;

(d) Visits to local institutions and other undertakings or events related to the programme of work of the Congress, in consultation with the host country.

9. In response to General Assembly resolutions 32/58 and 32/60, the report of the Sixth Congress will be submitted to the General Assembly at its thirty-fifth session.

^{2/} See General Assembly resolution 34/230 A entitled "Programme budget for the biennium 1980-1981" and Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/34/6), vol. I, part IV, sect. 4, para. 4.45.

Annex

DRAFT PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE SIXTH UNITED NATIONS CONGRESS ON THE
PREVENTION OF CRIME AND THE TREATMENT OF OFFENDERS

1. Opening of the Congress
2. Organizational matters:
 - (a) Election of the President
 - (b) Adoption of the rules of procedure
 - (c) Adoption of the agenda
 - (d) Organization of work
 - (e) Election of officers other than the President
 - (f) Credentials of representatives to the Congress:
 - (i) Appointment of the members of the Credentials Committee
 - (ii) Report of the Credentials Committee
3. Crime trends and crime prevention strategies

Documentation

Working paper prepared by the Secretariat on crime trends and crime prevention strategies

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the relevant conclusions of the Fifth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 32/59 of 8 December 1977

4. Juvenile justice: before and after the onset of delinquency

Documentation

Working paper prepared by the Secretariat on juvenile justice: before and after the onset of delinquency

5. Crime and the abuse of power: offences and offenders beyond the reach of the law

Documentation

Working paper prepared by the Secretariat on crime and the abuse of power: offences and offenders beyond the reach of the law

6. Deinstitutionalization of corrections and its implications for the residual prisoner

Documentation

Working paper prepared by the Secretariat on deinstitutionalization of corrections and its implications for the residual prisoner

7. United Nations norms and guidelines in criminal justice: from standard-setting to implementation, and capital punishment

Documentation

Working paper prepared by the Secretariat on United Nations norms and guidelines in criminal justice: from standard-setting to implementation

Working paper prepared by the Secretariat on capital punishment

8. New perspectives in crime prevention and criminal justice and development: the role of international co-operation

Documentation

Working paper prepared by the Secretariat on new perspectives in crime prevention and criminal justice and development: the role of international co-operation

9. Adoption of the report of the Sixth Congress
