



General Assembly

Distr.: Limited
9 April 2019

Arabic, English and French only

African Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

Addis Ababa, 9–11 April 2019

Draft report

Rapporteur: Lunga Bengu (South Africa)

Addendum

II. Conclusions and recommendations

1. The Secretary of the African 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.
2. Presentations were delivered by representatives of the Secretariat introducing the main theme, substantive agenda items and workshop topics.
3. 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

4. Many participants noted that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was a collective commitment of the international community to be implemented at all levels, the national, regional and global level, and highlighted the importance of joint actions, including in the African region, to achieve its goals and targets, including addressing poverty eradication, reducing inequalities, fostering economic growth, access to health and justice, addressing the specific needs of vulnerable members of society, including women, youth and children, promoting a culture of lawfulness, ensuring that no one is left behind, taking thereby into consideration national specificities of the countries in the region.

5. Many participants welcomed the overall theme of the Fourteenth Congress, focusing on advancing crime prevention, criminal justice and the rule of law: towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda, as well as the regional preparatory meetings held in all regions of the world. It was emphasized that the overall theme of the Fourteenth Congress was essential in highlighting the importance of ensuring social justice, building effective crime prevention and criminal justice systems, that were robust and respectful of the rule of law and human rights, thereby ensuring access to justice for all.

6. The importance of the Doha Declaration, adopted at the Thirteenth United Nations Congress, was highlighted, with many participants sharing specific efforts in the implementation of the Doha Declaration. The important role by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice providing essential input to the 2030 Agenda, in particular Goal 16, and the recognition of the interrelationship between the rule of law and sustainable development, were highlighted by a number of participants.

7. Participants shared information on national and regional legislative, institutional and operational efforts in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice, supporting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including through: multisectoral coordination mechanisms ensuring that all relevant stakeholders are involved, strengthening institutions involved in crime prevention and criminal justice including in post-conflict situations, as well as addressing persistent and emerging challenges, among others, cybercrime, wildlife crime, corruption, terrorism, arms trafficking, trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants, money-laundering, illicit financial flows, the exploitation of national resources, climate change and environmental challenges, and illicit trafficking in precious metals. UNODC was commended for support provided in the region.

8. Some participants highlighted that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was a framework for addressing crime prevention and criminal justice challenges within the broader context of promoting sustainable development. Reference was made to the importance of Member States engaging in the next meeting High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development in July 2019.

9. Many participations underlined the mutually reinforcing relation between the rule of law, crime prevention and criminal justice and sustainable development, and participants underscored that the achievement of SDG 16 was key for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. It was also noted that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was complementing ongoing efforts of the international community to address crime, including the international legally binding framework for international cooperation in criminal matters such as the United Nations Convention against Corruption, and the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto. The importance of

harmonizing legislation in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice in the region was highlighted by some delegations, with a view to strengthening judicial cooperation and fostering joint actions in the region.

10. A number of participants underscored the importance of enhanced international cooperation, partnerships, as well as the enhanced provision of technical assistance and capacity-building in the region to ensure the comprehensive implementation of the 2030 Agenda. In addition, several participants underscored the importance of inter-agency cooperation, encouraging all relevant stakeholders at the national, regional and global level, within their mandates, to join efforts in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, including relevant United Nations entities, international and regional organizations, the public and private sector, academia and civil society.

Outcome of deliberations

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

(a) Encourage the countries of the region to actively implement the goals and targets set in the 2030 agenda, in particular goal 16, ensuring the contributions of all relevant stakeholders, taking into consideration national specificities of the countries in the region;

(b) Emphasize the importance of international cooperation and partnerships, and enhanced provision of technical assistance and capacity-building for criminal justice practitioners, including training for law enforcement officials, in countries in the region, to ensure the practical implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the future Kyoto Declaration;

(c) Pursue a holistic approach to crime prevention, criminal justice and the rule of law, strengthen public institutions, and the role of the general public, and promote a culture of lawfulness as an approach to foster the general public's trust and respect for the law and its enforcement, and promote access to justice through legal aid;

(d) Underscore the people-centred aspect of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and reflect this approach in crime prevention and criminal justice policies in the region, with due consideration to the different stakeholders involved including, police, prosecutors, defenders, judges, and victims and witnesses, as well as society as a whole;

(e) Underscore the importance of implementation at the national, regional and international levels, with all relevant stakeholders, including relevant United Nations entities, international and regional organizations, the public and private sector, academia and civil society, joining efforts and creating synergies, within their mandates, to ensure the comprehensive implementation of the 2030 Agenda;

(f) Underline the importance of measuring tangible progress made in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and consider taking steps towards harmonizing national efforts in the region, including through using established regional mechanisms;

(g) Emphasize the importance of promoting public-private partnerships in crime prevention efforts and undertaking multi-stakeholder approaches, and enhance collaboration between crime prevention and criminal justice practitioners, civil society and the general public, particularly by exploring innovative and effective ways of public-private partnership and inter-agency cooperation.

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

12. Participants recognized that poverty, hunger, unemployment and inequality, including gender inequality, were root causes of crime and violence and that crime prevention strategies should include specific measures to address these causes. Many participants underlined that educational, social and health measures were important tools to advance crime prevention efforts and address some of the root causes of crime.

13. It was further stressed by many participants that education played a catalyst role within integrated crime prevention approaches. The need to advance local, national, regional and international efforts to promote education with a view to empowering the public, in particular children and youth, in assuming their role as agents of positive change, was emphasized by a number of participants. Reference was made in this regard to the involvement of youth in major events such as the International Youth Forum.

14. The importance of promoting a culture of lawfulness within the context of crime prevention, which focuses on fostering trust and respect among the general public for the law and its enforcement, was underscored by several participants.

15. Many participants further noted that youth and children were key players in crime prevention initiatives and that the forthcoming Congress should, among others, focus on practical measures that prevent the recruitment and involvement of children and youth in crime.

16. A number of participants further noted the importance of community-based policing in preventing crime at the local level. It was mentioned that addressing violent extremism could not be accomplished without the cooperation of communities with the police which in turn fostered public confidence in law enforcement.

17. The importance of integrating a gender perspective into crime prevention and criminal justice measures and policies, and to ensure that the specific needs of women, were taken into account in all crime prevention strategies, was emphasized by several participants.

18. It was further recognized that the provision of public services and adequate resources, including human resources, were key for effective crime prevention and criminal justice systems.

19. Participants further underscored the importance of investing in training and capacity-building for practitioners, including prosecutors, police officers and probation and correction officers, as well as the need to enhance cooperation and coordination among criminal justice practitioners to effectively address crime, including transnational organized crime at the national, regional and international levels.

20. It was further noted that the evolving nature of gang-related violence and other urban crime challenges required specialized and targeted crime prevention approaches, particularly to prevent the involvement of youth, and that UNODC could support Member States in analysing recent trends and good practices to address gang-related violence and urban crime.

21. The importance of evidence-based crime prevention, including by strengthening data collection, was emphasized. Many participants highlighted the need to monitor, assess and evaluate the impact of crime prevention programmes to better inform future responses. The need for reliable statistics on crime and justice responses as

well as for research purposes to develop policies to prevent crime and reoffending was also highlighted by some participants.

22. It was further mentioned that climate change had an impact on crime and violence and should be considered in crime prevention strategies and policies.

Outcome of deliberations

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

(a) Consider links between poverty and crime and its impact on sustainable development; reduce inequalities conducive to crime; give special attention to the needs of the most vulnerable members of society;

(b) Promote employment, including through measures such as transitional jobs and micro-credits, improve living and housing conditions, and promote access to public services, education and to the Internet and new technologies for all with a view to reduce inequalities and increase resilience to crime;

(c) Offer vocational training programmes and programmes to prevent drug abuse and radicalization within penitentiary systems;

(d) Promote religious dialogue and reform to address extremism and hatred and promote the use of modern media to increase awareness-raising;

(e) Enhance cooperation among competent authorities to provide children and youth with educational programmes that provide them with the necessary knowledge, values and skills to contribute to building peaceful, just and inclusive societies;

(f) Promote measures that foster a culture of lawfulness to prevent crime; promote effective community policing practices with a view to strengthening trust and cooperation between citizens and the police;

(g) Address the impact of informal economies on crime and strengthen the cooperation with the private sector and civil society, including through fostering public-private partnerships, in preventing and responding to crime;

(h) Strengthen, develop and implement comprehensive and integrated crime prevention strategies, and make gender-sensitive measures an integral part of any crime prevention and criminal justice policy;

(i) Ensure the full protection of children and the promotion of their rights and provide technical support to practitioners, law enforcement and judges;

(j) Strengthen the capacity of law enforcement officials and criminal justice officers through training as key element to address crime at the national level and strengthen cooperation among practitioners at the regional and international levels; and continue to call upon UNODC to provide technical assistance upon request;

(k) Improve data collection and enhance cooperation in the field of crime statistics to strengthen the capacity of Member States in collecting and analysing crime-related data, including through support provided by UNODC, and adopt evidence-based crime prevention strategies and criminal justice responses to crime.

C. General Issues

Summary of deliberations

24. A number of participants underscored the importance of ensuring a short and concise Kyoto Declaration, sending, a strong, political message, addressing the overall theme of the Congress, as well as reflect regional challenges, priorities and specificities. It was proposed that a short political statement by the high-level representatives could be complemented with an action-oriented document with practical policy recommendations.

25. Participants highlighted the key role played by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, addressing all aspects of crime prevention and criminal justice, providing a forum for sharing good practices, lessons learned and challenges, including in the implementation of the respective SDG goals and targets.

Outcome of deliberations

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

(a) Consider a short and concise Kyoto Declaration, sending a strong political message, including with regard to the joint commitment of the international community to implement the Sustainable Development Agenda, reflecting, based on the principle of common and shared responsibility, key priorities for the region, including among others the importance of enhanced cooperation in addressing persistent and emerging challenges, such as, cybercrime, wildlife crime, corruption, terrorism, arms trafficking, trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants, money-laundering, illicit financial flows, the exploitation of national resources, climate change and environmental challenges, and illicit trafficking in precious metals;

(b) Further strengthen the role of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, with a view to ensuring a comprehensive follow-up within the Commission on the outcomes of the United Nations Crime Congresses, including focused on the sharing of good practices and lesson learned among relevant stakeholders, thereby also addressing the interlinkages among relevant Sustainable Development Goals and its targets.
