



General Assembly

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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)

I. Introduction

1. In its resolution [56/119](#), on the role, function, periodicity and duration of the United Nations congresses on the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders, the General Assembly decided that each congress should be preceded by regional preparatory meetings and also decided to call future congresses United Nations congresses on crime prevention and criminal justice.
2. The Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Lessons Learned from United Nations Congresses on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, at its meeting held in Bangkok from 15 to 18 August 2006, discussed how to incorporate regional concerns and perspectives into the preparation of the congresses. The Group stressed the importance of regional preparatory meetings as a key preparatory tool for the congresses and noted that, despite globalization and the increasingly transboundary nature of criminality, different regions of the world continued to have different concerns, which they wanted to see properly reflected in the consideration of various topics by the congresses ([E/CN.15/2007/6](#), para. 23).
3. In its resolution [72/192](#), the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to facilitate the organization of the regional preparatory meetings for the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and to make available the necessary resources for the participation of the least developed countries in those meetings and in the Fourteenth Congress itself, in accordance with past practice and in consultation with Member States. In the same resolution, the Assembly encouraged the relevant United Nations programmes, specialized agencies of the United Nations system and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, as well as other professional organizations, to cooperate with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in the preparations for the Fourteenth Congress.
4. In the same resolution, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General, in cooperation with the institutes of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme network, to prepare a discussion guide for the regional preparatory meetings for the Fourteenth Congress and for the Congress itself in a timely manner, and invited Member States to be actively involved in that process.



5. At its twenty-seventh session, the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice considered the draft discussion guide. In its resolution [73/184](#), the General Assembly took note with appreciation of the draft discussion guide and requested the Secretary-General to finalize it in a timely manner, taking into account the recommendations of the Commission, as well as additional comments and feedback from Member States, in order to enable the regional preparatory meetings for the Fourteenth Congress to be held as early as possible in 2019. The finalized discussion guide ([A/CONF.234/PM.1](#)) was published in September 2018.

6. In its resolution [72/192](#), the General Assembly encouraged Governments to undertake preparations for the Fourteenth Congress at an early stage and by all appropriate means, including, where appropriate, the establishment of national preparatory committees. Also in that resolution, as well as in resolution [73/184](#), the Assembly urged participants in the regional preparatory meetings to examine the substantive items on the agenda and the topics of the workshops of the Fourteenth Congress and to make action-oriented recommendations to serve as a basis for the draft recommendations and conclusions for consideration by the Congress.

II. Conclusions and recommendations

7. [...]

III. Attendance and organization of work

A. Date and venue of the Meeting

8. The African Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice was held in Addis Ababa from 9 to 11 April 2019.

B. Attendance

9. The following States members of the Economic Commission for Africa were represented at the Meeting: Algeria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Morocco, Namibia, Nigeria, South Africa, Sudan, Tunisia, Zimbabwe.

10. Japan was were represented by observers.

11. The following entities of the United Nations system were represented by observers: United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

12. The following institutes of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme network were represented by observers: International Scientific and Professional Advisory Council (ISPAC), the United Nations Asia and Far East Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (UNAFEI) and United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI).

13. The following intergovernmental organizations were represented by observers: African Union Mission to the United Nations, Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization (AALCO), International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) and League of Arab States.

14. The following non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council was represented by observers: Action Jeunesse Pour le Développement (AJED-Congo), International Human Rights Observer, International

Prison Chaplains Association, Open Society Foundation, Organization of la Francophonie, Penal Reform International and World Society for Victimology.

C. Opening of the Meeting

15. The African Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice was opened on 9 April 2019 by the Secretary of the Meeting.

16. A representative of the Regional Office for Eastern Africa for UNODC, speaking on behalf of the Executive Director, highlighted the importance of the United Nations congresses on crime prevention and criminal justice as a vital forum for taking stock of and assessing preparedness to deal with challenges and emerging threats and for undertaking a periodic review of crime-related standards and norms. Reference was made to the Ninth Congress, which was held in Cairo in 1995, whose thematic focus included international cooperation and technical assistance for strengthening the rule of law, which still remains very high on the international agenda and also has a clear link to the overall theme of the Fourteenth Congress. He further noted that the Fourteenth Congress would be held in Kyoto, Japan, where the Fourth Congress, the first Congress to be preceded by regional preparatory meetings, had been held 50 years previously. Since that time, the regional preparatory meetings had played a meaningful role in examining the substantive agenda items and topics of the workshops, and in making action-oriented recommendations from a regional perspective. The outcome of the Meeting would plant the seeds for the Kyoto declaration in 2020. He referred to the support provided by the host country of the Thirteenth Congress, which was held in Doha, in 2015, for the follow-up process. He emphasized that the Thirteenth Congress had focused on the mutually reinforcing relationship between the rule of law and sustainable development, and that its political outcome had been well reflected in Sustainable Development Goal 16. The Fourteenth Congress, which would be held five years after the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, would provide an opportunity to take stock of and formulate practical and operational recommendations for action in support of peaceful and just societies.

17. A representative of the UNODC Programme Office in Ethiopia highlighted the importance of the Fourteenth Congress for the African countries and provided information on UNODC's ongoing programmes and capacity-building efforts that support practitioners and other relevant stakeholders in various areas of crime prevention and criminal justice.

18. A moment of silence was observed at the beginning of the Meeting.

D. Election of officers

19. At its 1st meeting, on 9 April 2019, the Meeting elected, by acclamation, the following officers:

Chair: Vivian N. Okeke (Nigeria)
Vice-Chair: Nabil Hattali (Algeria)
Rapporteur: Lunga Bengu (South Africa)

E. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

20. Also at its 1st meeting, the Meeting adopted its provisional agenda ([A/CONF.234/RPM.4/L.1](#)), which read as follows:

1. Opening of the Meeting.
2. Election of officers.

3. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
 4. Main theme of the Fourteenth Congress: “Advancing crime prevention, criminal justice and the rule of law: towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda”.
 5. Substantive items on the agenda and the topics of the workshops of the Fourteenth Congress:
 - (a) 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);
 - (b) Integrated approaches to challenges facing the criminal justice system (agenda item 4); and reducing reoffending: identifying risks and developing solutions (workshop 2);
 - (c) 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 (agenda item 5); and education and youth engagement as key to making societies resilient to crime (workshop 3);
 - (d) International cooperation and technical assistance to prevent and address all forms of crime: (a) terrorism in all its forms and manifestations; and (b) new and emerging forms of crime (agenda item 6); and current crime trends, recent developments and emerging solutions, in particular new technologies as means for and tools against crime (workshop 4).
 6. Recommendations for the Fourteenth Congress.
 7. Adoption of the report on the Meeting.
21. At the same meeting, the Meeting approved its organization of work. The list of documents before the Meeting is contained in the annex to the present report.

F. Other matters

22. A representative of Japan, the host country of the Fourteenth Congress, gave a briefing, which included a video presentation, to the participants about the organizational and substantive preparations for the Fourteenth Congress and the youth forum that would precede it. He provided some information about Kyoto, the city that would host the Fourteenth Congress. He also provided an overview of the deliberations and outcome of the Fourth Congress, which had been held in the same city in 1970 and resulted, for the first time, in the adoption of a political declaration.
23. The observer for the Asia and Far East Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders made a statement, informing about their preparations for the workshops and activities to be held at the Fourteenth Congress. He encouraged Member States to consider including in their delegations experts who could offer substantive expertise to the deliberations during the workshop. He further referred to the institute’s effort to build an international network of its institutes alumni, and encouraged the active participation of alumni members from various jurisdictions, including those from Africa, in the Fourteenth Congress.
24. The observer of the International Scientific and Professional Advisory Council delivered a presentation on the arrangements for the ancillary meetings to be held during the Fourteenth Congress.

IV. Adoption of the report and closure of the Meeting

25. At its 6th meeting, on 11 April 2019, the Meeting considered and adopted its report ([A/CONF.234/RPM.4/L.2](#) and Add.1–4).

Annex

List of documents

A/CONF.234/PM.1	Discussion guide
A/CONF.234/RPM.4/L.1	Annotated provisional agenda
A/CONF.234/RPM.4/L.1 and Add.1–4	Draft report
A/CONF.234/RPM.4/INF/2	List of participants
A/CONF.234/PM/CRP.1	Note by the Secretariat entitled “From policy directives to concrete results: a quinquennial strategic operational roadmap”
