



General Assembly

Distr.: Limited
26 March 2019

Arabic and English only

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

Beirut, 26–28 March 2019

Draft report

Rapporteur: Abdullah F. Al- Ansary (Saudi Arabia)

Report of the Western Asia Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

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 General 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 Western Asia Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice was held in Beirut from 26 to 28 March 2019.

B. Attendance

9. The following States members of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia were represented at the Meeting: Egypt, Iraq, Kuwait, Lebanon, Morocco, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, Yemen.

10. Japan was represented by observers.

11. The following entities of the United Nations system were represented by observers: United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Economic and Social Council for Western Asia (ESCWA) 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) and the United Nations Asia and Far East Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (UNAFEI).

13. The following intergovernmental organizations were represented by observers: Arab Interior Ministers Council, Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf and Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean.

14. The following non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council was represented by observers: Luz Maria Foundation and Terre des Hommes.

C. Opening of the Meeting

15. The Western Asia Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice was opened on 26 March 2019 by the Secretary of the Meeting.

16. The Executive Secretary of the Fourteenth Congress, speaking on behalf of the Executive Director of UNODC, 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 fact 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. He also referred to the Host Country's support for the preparatory process and the follow-up process to the Thirteenth Congress held in Doha, Qatar in 2015. He emphasized that the Thirteenth Congress had been 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. The representative of the Regional Office for the Middle East and North Africa of UNODC and the representative of the Office for the Gulf Council Region of UNODC provided information on the ongoing programmes and capacity-building activities in their respective regions that support practitioners and other relevant stakeholders in various areas of crime prevention and criminal justice.

18. The Chief of the Global Programme for the Implementation of the Doha Declaration of UNODC made a statement on the follow-up programme for the Thirteenth Congress, which supports the translation of the Doha Declaration into concrete activities. He also mentioned that the Doha Declaration introduced back to the attention of the international community the importance of fostering a "culture of lawfulness", which was first introduced in the United Nations guidelines for the prevention of crime. He referred to the achievements of the integrated and strategic programming through the Global Programme ensuring the building of partnerships with a wide array of stakeholders from international organizations, civil society, educators, children and youth.

19. The Deputy Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia addressed the meeting and underscored the importance of the regional perspective of Western Asia and shared that it should be taken into account for the preparations towards and discussions at the Fourteenth Congress. He also highlighted the urgent need for addressing root causes of crime and terrorism in the region in order to respond effectively and efficiently to the vicious cycle that threatens the growth and prosperity in the region, bearing thereby in mind that the youth are the most vulnerable and affected.

D. Election of officers

20. At its 1st meeting, on 26 March 2019, the Meeting elected, by acclamation, the following officers:

Chair: Zakaria Alansari (Kuwait)
Vice-Chair: Elias Eid (Lebanon)
Rapporteur: Abdullah F. Al- Ansary (Saudi Arabia)

E. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

21. Also at its 1st meeting, the Meeting adopted its provisional agenda ([A/CONF.234/RPM.2/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.

22. 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

23. A representative of Japan, the host country of the Fourteenth Congress, briefed the participants about the organizational and substantive preparations for the

Fourteenth Congress and the Youth Forum that would precede it. His briefing included a video presentation. He provided information about the city of Kyoto, which would host the Fourteenth Congress. He also provided a historical overview of the deliberations at the Fourth Congress, held in the same city in 1970, and the outcomes of that Congress, which had resulted, for the first time, in the adoption of a political declaration.

24. The observer for the Asia and Far East Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders delivered a statement, informing about their preparations for the workshops and activities to be held at the Fourteenth Congress.

25. The observer of the International Scientific and Professional Advisory Council also 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

26. At its 6th meeting, on 28 March 2019, the Meeting considered and adopted its report ([A/CONF.234/RPM.2/L.2](#), [A/CONF.234/RPM.2/L.2/Add.1](#), [A/CONF.234/RPM.2/L.2/Add.2](#), [A/CONF.234/RPM.2/L.2/Add.3](#) and [A/CONF.234/RPM.2/L.2/Add.4](#)).

Annex

List of documents

A/CONF.234/PM.1

A/CONF.234/RPM.2/L.1

A/CONF.234/RPM.2/L.2 and Add.1–4

A/CONF.234/RPM.2/INF/2

A/CONF.234/PM/CRP.1

Discussion guide

Annotated provisional agenda

Draft report

List of participants

Note by the Secretariat entitled “From policy directives to concrete results: a quinquennial strategic operational roadmap”