



General Assembly

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Latin American and Caribbean Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

Santiago, 5–7 February 2019

Draft report

Rapporteur: Paul Williams (Canada)

Report of the Latin American and Caribbean 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 Latin American and Caribbean Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice was held in Santiago from 5 to 7 February 2019.

B. Attendance

9. The following States members of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean were represented at the Meeting: Argentina, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, El Salvador, France, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Japan, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, United States of America, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

10. The following entities of the United Nations system were represented by observers: United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and UNODC.

11. The following institutes of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme network were represented by observers: Latin American Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (ILANUD) and the United Nations Asia and Far East Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (UNAFEI).

12. The following non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council was represented by observers: Terre d'Hommes.

C. Opening of the Meeting

13. The Latin American and Caribbean Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice was opened on 5 February 2019 by the Secretary of the Meeting.

14. A representative of 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 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 an essential 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 emphasized that the Thirteenth Crime 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.

15. The Deputy Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean addressed the meeting and welcomed the participants, highlighting the importance of the regional preparatory meeting in ensuring diversity and active participation from the region in the preparatory phase of the Fourteenth Congress. He referred to the significance of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and focused, in particular, on the key role of Goal 16 of the Agenda for the region. He further noted that strengthening regional coordination and multilateralism were crucial and fundamental elements in concerted efforts to promote both crime prevention and criminal justice, as well as development goals.

D. Election of officers

16. At its 1st meeting, on 5 February 2019, the Meeting elected, by acclamation, the following officers:

Chair: Pía Green (Chile)
Vice-Chair: Alejandro Solano Ortiz (Costa Rica)
Rapporteur: Paul Williams (Canada)

E. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

17. Also at its 1st meeting, the Meeting adopted its provisional agenda ([A/CONF.234/RPM.3/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.
18. 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.
19. The first to third, fifth and sixth meetings from 5 to 7 February were chaired by Ms. Pía Green (Chile) and the fourth meeting on 6 February was chaired by Ambassador Alejandro Solano Ortiz (Costa Rica).

F. Other matters

20. A representative of Japan, the host country of the Fourteenth Congress, briefed the participants on the organizational and substantive preparations for the Fourteenth Congress and the Youth Forum that would precede it. He provided information about Kyoto, the city that would host the Fourteenth Congress, and provided an overview of the deliberations and outcome of the Fourth Congress, which had been held in Kyoto in 1970 and had resulted, for the first time, in the adoption of a political declaration.
21. The observer for the Asia and Far East Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (UNAFEI) gave a statement highlighting the contribution of the Institute to the preparations for the Fourteenth Congress, including the organization of workshop 2 of the Congress, in collaboration with the Thailand Institute of Justice (TIJ) and the Secretariat. In doing so, she encouraged Member States to consider including in their delegations experts who could offer substantive expertise to the deliberations during the workshop. Reminding the constructive role of UNAFEI as the member of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme Network (PNI) based in the host country of the Fourteenth Congress, the observer also stressed the importance of developing professional networks among practitioners and expressed the view that the Fourteenth Congress would be an excellent opportunity to strengthen such networks. In this regard, she referred to the Institute's efforts to build an international network of UNAFEI's

alumni and encouraged the active participation of alumni members from various jurisdictions, including Latin America, in the Fourteenth Congress.

22. In her statement, the observer for Latin American Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (ILANUD) expressed gratitude for the organization of regional forums bringing together various stakeholders from different countries to discuss measures, policies and strategies in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice. She also stressed the commitment of the Institute to advance dialogue and exchange of views and expertise on related issues, as well as its readiness to support the upcoming Congress. She further stated that an ideal outcome of the Congress would be action-oriented ideas applicable to public policies.

IV. Adoption of the report and closure of the Meeting

23. At its 6th meeting, on 7 February 2019, the Meeting considered and adopted its report ([A/CONF.234/RPM.3/L.2](#), [A/CONF.234/RPM.3/L.2/Add.1](#), [A/CONF.234/RPM.3/L.2/Add.2](#), [A/CONF.234/RPM.3/L.2/Add.3](#) and [A/CONF.234/RPM.3/L.2/Add.4](#)).

Annex

List of documents

[A/CONF.234/PM.1](#)

Discussion guide

[A/CONF.234/RPM.3/L.1](#)

Annotated provisional agenda

[A/CONF.234/RPM.3/L.2](#) and Add.1–4

Draft report

[A/CONF.234/RPM.3/INF.2](#)

List of participants

A/CONF.234/PM/CRP.1

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