



Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

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Addendum

Comprehensive strategies for crime prevention towards social and economic development

Proceedings

1. At its 8th and 9th plenary meetings, on 9 March 2021, the Congress considered agenda item 3, entitled “Comprehensive strategies for crime prevention towards social and economic development”. For its consideration of the item, the Congress had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the state of crime and criminal justice worldwide ([A/CONF.234/3](#));

(b) Working paper prepared by the Secretariat on comprehensive strategies for crime prevention towards social and economic development ([A/CONF.234/4](#));

(c) Background paper prepared by the Secretariat for the workshop on evidence-based crime prevention: statistics, indicators and evaluation in support of successful practices ([A/CONF.234/8](#));

(d) Report of the Secretariat on the outcome of the expert group meeting on integrating sport into youth crime prevention and criminal justice strategies ([A/CONF.234/14](#));

(e) Working paper prepared by the Secretariat on developments regarding crime prevention and criminal justice as a result of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic ([A/CONF.234/15](#));

(f) Discussion guide for the Fourteenth Congress ([A/CONF.234/PM.1](#));

(g) Reports of the regional preparatory meetings for the Fourteenth Congress ([A/CONF.234/RPM.1/1](#), [A/CONF.234/RPM.2/1](#), [A/CONF.234/RPM.3/1](#), [A/CONF.234/RPM.4/1](#) and [A/CONF.234/RPM.5/1](#)).

2. The 8th plenary meeting was chaired by Jalal E.A. Alashi (Libya). Item 3 was introduced by a representative of the Secretariat. A summary of proceedings was presented to the plenary meeting by the moderator of workshop 1, entitled “Evidence-based crime prevention: statistics, indicators and evaluation in support of successful practices”. Statements were made by the representatives of Japan, China, Thailand,



Honduras, the United States, Indonesia, South Africa, Viet Nam, Nigeria, the Philippines, Argentina and Morocco. A statement was also made by the observer for the Women's Federation for World Peace.

3. The 9th plenary meeting was chaired by Hikihara Takeshi (Japan). Statements were made by the representatives of Canada, Italy, Romania, Israel, Angola, Finland and Mexico. Statements were also made by the observers for the International Association for the Advancement of Innovative Solutions to Global Challenges and the Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime.

General discussion

4. Many speakers stressed that public safety was key for social and economic development and that effective crime prevention was important for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. In that context, several speakers drew attention to the fact that organized crime and corruption, as well as urban crime, had a major impact on economic development and public safety and that international cooperation was crucial in addressing those phenomena.

5. Recognizing the importance of comprehensive and inclusive prevention, several speakers presented efforts to implement effective prevention policies and initiatives with regard to various forms of crime and violence, including gang violence, violence against women, violence against children, cybercrime, trafficking in persons, smuggling of migrants, illicit financial flows and environmental crime and corruption.

6. Many speakers noted that the COVID-19 pandemic had increased economic challenges and inequalities, while creating opportunities for crime, including organized crime. Moreover, it was mentioned that the pandemic had brought issues of social injustice and systemic racism to the fore. Several speakers reflected on measures that had been taken to continue ensuring access to services, including those related to the justice system, by increasing the use of information and communications technologies and digital tools.

7. It was noted that the shared challenges that States faced in strengthening their economies amid a global pandemic presented an opportunity for transformative approaches to crime prevention and renewed efforts in multi-stakeholder partnerships.

8. Speakers reaffirmed that crime prevention should not be the exclusive responsibility of police or the criminal justice system. They stressed that a comprehensive and integrated approach was required, involving all relevant sectors of Government, the private sector and civil society actors, including youth representatives, when designing and implementing crime prevention strategies that addressed root causes of crime and victimization. In that context, the role that faith-based organizations could play was noted.

9. Several speakers referred to the need to address social-economic exclusion, marginalization and inequalities in the context of crime prevention and reduction and highlighted the importance of education, skills training, employment opportunities, and access to sport and recreational programmes. In that context, the design and implementation of social policies for crime prevention with a focus on positive youth development was stressed.

10. Several speakers noted that, in order to prevent crime and recidivism among young people, emphasis should be placed on early-intervention programmes targeting at-risk groups, as well as on policies facilitating the successful socialization and integration of those who had been in conflict with the law. The use of sport was mentioned as one of the mechanisms to help young people or children to become more resilient to crime. Several speakers highlighted the need for coordination between relevant actors to deal effectively with children in contact with the law and prevent recidivism. It was mentioned that victim-offender mediation was considered to be the most effective element of restorative justice in terms of preventing reoffending by young people.

11. The view was widely held that evidence-based policies and programmes were required to effectively address risk factors of crime, and speakers emphasized the need for data and information on crime as well as the need to measure the impact of crime prevention programmes. In that regard, some speakers indicated the need for more knowledge of the effects of different interventions, including those that promoted social, economic and educational well-being but were not specifically aimed at preventing crime.

12. A number of speakers pointed to the need to involve communities and local organizations in efforts to address crime, including organized crime, and the role that local authorities could play in the development and implementation of crime prevention strategies, including by tailoring interventions to the local context.

13. Several speakers mentioned efforts to strengthen trust between security actors and communities and the need to promote police interaction with citizens, including through community-oriented policing. Reference was made to domestic experiences, such as establishing crime prevention networks that encompassed local government, residents, companies and other stakeholders. Stakeholders in those networks actively exchanged information and supported voluntary crime prevention activities, such as community patrols.

14. The need for effective prevention of violence against women and girls and domestic violence was discussed by several speakers. Speakers reported on reducing barriers to the reporting of sexual offences and domestic violence to reduce the gap between the number of reported and unreported incidents of such offences, as well as the need to support victims of violence and provide access to relevant services.

15. With regard to violence against children, several speakers underlined the importance of adequate protection services. The need to address online child abuse in particular was mentioned.
