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Agenda item 107

Crime prevention and criminal justice

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 17 December 2024

[on the report of the Third Committee ([A/79/459](#), para. 37)]

79/186. Follow-up to the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and preparations for the Fifteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

The General Assembly,

Emphasizing the responsibility assumed by the United Nations in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice in pursuance of Economic and Social Council resolution 155 C (VII) of 13 August 1948 and General Assembly resolution [415 \(V\)](#) of 1 December 1950,

Acknowledging that the United Nations congresses on crime prevention and criminal justice, as major intergovernmental forums, have influenced national policies and practices and promoted international cooperation in that field by facilitating the exchange of views and experience, mobilizing public opinion and recommending policy options at the national, regional and international levels,

Recalling its resolution [46/152](#) of 18 December 1991, in the annex to which Member States affirmed that the United Nations congresses on crime prevention and criminal justice should be held every five years and should provide a forum for, inter alia, the exchange of views between States, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and individual experts representing various professions and disciplines, the exchange of experiences in research, law and policy development and the identification of emerging trends and issues in crime prevention and criminal justice,

Recalling also the applicable provisions of its resolution [56/119](#) of 19 December 2001,

Recalling further the applicable provisions of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31 of 25 July 1996,



Recalling its resolution [76/181](#) of 16 December 2021, in which it endorsed the Kyoto Declaration on Advancing Crime Prevention, Criminal Justice and the Rule of Law: Towards the Achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted by the Fourteenth Congress, and requested the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice to review the implementation of the Kyoto Declaration under the standing item on its agenda entitled “Follow-up to the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and preparations for the Fifteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice”,

Recalling also its resolution [77/231](#) of 15 December 2022, in which it decided to hold the Fifteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in 2026, without prejudice to the timing of subsequent United Nations congresses on crime prevention and criminal justice and with a view to maintaining the five-year cycle of the congresses, in the light of the intensive follow-up process undertaken by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in the implementation of the Kyoto Declaration,

Recalling further its resolution [78/223](#) of 19 December 2023, in which it approved the agenda items and decided upon the main theme and the topics for the workshops of the Fifteenth Congress and also decided that the duration of the Fifteenth Congress should not exceed eight days, including pre-Congress consultations,

Recalling that, in its resolution [78/223](#), it decided that, in accordance with its resolution [56/119](#), the Fifteenth Congress would adopt a single declaration, to be submitted to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice for its consideration, and that the Commission would give due consideration to the report of the Fifteenth Congress,

Encouraged by the success of the Fourteenth Congress as one of the largest and most diverse forums for the exchange of views on and experiences in research, law and policy and programme development between States, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and individual experts representing various professions and disciplines,

Praising the Government of Japan for conducting an intensive, succinct and fruitful Fourteenth Congress, despite challenging circumstances due to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, and mindful of the need to constantly look for ways to further improve the work of future congresses,

Stressing the importance of undertaking all preparatory activities for the Fifteenth Congress in a timely and concerted manner,

Mindful of the Strategy for Sustainability Management in the United Nations System, 2020–2030, and best practices in the preparations for, and the organization of, the Fifteenth Congress,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the follow-up to the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and preparations for the Fifteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice,¹

1. *Reiterates its invitation* to Governments to take into consideration the Kyoto Declaration on Advancing Crime Prevention, Criminal Justice and the Rule of Law: Towards the Achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development²

¹ [E/CN.15/2024/12](#).

² Resolution [76/181](#), annex.

when formulating legislation and policy directives and to make every effort, where appropriate, to implement the principles contained therein in conformity with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations;

2. *Welcomes* the initiative of the Government of Japan to work with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, and through the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, in ensuring appropriate follow-up to the implementation of the Kyoto Declaration;

3. *Requests* the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, in accordance with its mandate, to continue implementing the appropriate policy and operational measures for the follow-up to the Kyoto Declaration, including through the holding of intersessional thematic discussions to facilitate the sharing of information, good practices and lessons learned among Member States and relevant stakeholders, subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources;

4. *Notes* the progress made thus far in the preparations for the Fifteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice;

5. *Decides* to hold the Fifteenth Congress in Abu Dhabi from 25 to 30 April 2026, with pre-Congress consultations to be held on 24 April 2026;

6. *Also decides* that the high-level segment of the Fifteenth Congress shall be held during the first two days of the Congress in order to allow Heads of State or Government and government ministers to focus on the main theme of the Congress and to enhance the possibility of generating useful feedback;

7. *Reiterates its invitation* to Member States to be represented at the Fifteenth Congress at the highest possible level, for example, by Heads of State or Government, government ministers or attorneys general, and to make statements on the theme and topics of the Congress;

8. *Also reiterates its invitation* to Member States to play an active role in the Fifteenth Congress by sending legal and policy experts, including practitioners with special training and practical experience in crime prevention and criminal justice;

9. *Requests* the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, in accordance with its resolution [73/184](#) of 17 December 2018, to begin to prepare, at intersessional meetings to be held following the regular part of its thirty-fourth session and well in advance of the Fifteenth Congress, a structured, short and concise draft declaration with a robust overarching political message addressing the main topics to be discussed at the Congress, taking into account the outcomes of the regional preparatory meetings, consultations with relevant organizations and entities and the relevant discussions held in preparation for the Congress, as well as the mandate and objectives of the United Nations congresses on crime prevention and criminal justice;

10. *Encourages* Member States to finalize their negotiations of the Abu Dhabi declaration in a timely manner prior to the commencement of the Fifteenth Congress so that the declaration can be adopted on the opening day of the Fifteenth Congress, thereby following the approach taken in the preparations for the Thirteenth and Fourteenth Congresses;

11. *Decides* that the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, during the in-session thematic discussion at its thirty-fifth session, will give due consideration to the report of the Fifteenth Congress;

12. *Takes note with appreciation* of the draft discussion guide prepared by the Secretary-General, in cooperation with the institutes of the United Nations crime

prevention and criminal justice programme network, for the regional preparatory meetings and for the Fifteenth Congress;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to finalize the discussion guide in a timely manner, taking into account the recommendations of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, as well as additional comments and feedback from Member States, in order to enable the regional preparatory meetings for the Fifteenth Congress to be held as early as possible in 2025;

14. *Reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General to facilitate the organization of the five regional preparatory meetings and to make available the necessary resources for the participation of the least developed countries in those meetings and in the Fifteenth Congress itself, in accordance with past practice;

15. *Urges* participants in the regional preparatory meetings to examine the substantive items on the agenda and the topics of the workshops of the Fifteenth Congress and to make action-oriented recommendations to serve as a basis for the draft recommendations and conclusions for consideration by the Congress;

16. *Invites* Governments to undertake preparations for the Fifteenth Congress at an early stage by all appropriate means, including, where appropriate, the establishment of national preparatory committees;

17. *Emphasizes* the importance of the workshops to be held within the framework of the Fifteenth Congress, and invites Member States, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and other relevant entities to provide financial, organizational and technical support to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the institutes of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme network for the preparations for the workshops, including the preparation and circulation of relevant background material;

18. *Requests* the Secretary-General, subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources, to facilitate the participation of developing countries in the workshops, and encourages States, the institutes of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme network, other entities concerned and the Secretary-General to work together in order to ensure that the workshops are well focused and achieve practical results, leading to technical cooperation ideas and projects and documents for enhancing bilateral and multilateral technical assistance activities in crime prevention and criminal justice;

19. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to facilitate the organization of ancillary meetings of non-governmental and professional organizations participating in the Fifteenth Congress, in accordance with past practice, as well as meetings of professional and geographical interest groups, and to take appropriate measures to encourage the participation of the academic and research community in the Congress, and encourages Member States to actively participate in the above-mentioned meetings, as they provide an opportunity to develop and maintain strong partnerships with the private sector and civil society organizations;

20. *Encourages* 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 in the preparations for the Fifteenth Congress;

21. *Requests* the Secretary-General to prepare a plan for the documentation for the Fifteenth Congress, in consultation with the extended Bureau of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice;

22. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to appoint a Secretary-General and an Executive Secretary of the Fifteenth Congress, in accordance with past practice, to perform their functions under the rules of procedure for United Nations congresses on crime prevention and criminal justice;
23. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to provide the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime with the necessary resources, from within the overall appropriations of the programme budget for 2025 and the programme budget for 2026, to support the preparations for and holding of the Fifteenth Congress;
24. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure, in collaboration with Member States, a wide and effective programme of public information relating to the preparations for the Fifteenth Congress, to the Congress itself and to the follow-up to and implementation of its recommendations;
25. *Requests* the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice to accord sufficient time at its thirty-fourth session to reviewing the progress made in the preparations for the Fifteenth Congress, to finalize in a timely manner all outstanding organizational and substantive arrangements and to make its recommendations to the General Assembly through the Economic and Social Council;
26. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure proper follow-up to the present resolution and to report thereon to the General Assembly through the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its thirty-fourth session;
27. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its eighty-first session a report on the implementation of the present resolution.

*53rd plenary meeting
17 December 2024*