



# General Assembly

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

Marrakech, Morocco, 23–25 April 2025

### Draft report

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### Addendum

## II. Recommendations (*continued*)

### B. Substantive items and workshops – Agenda item 5 (d)

4. **Working better together to elevate cooperation and partnerships, including technical and material assistance and training, at the national, regional and international levels, in crime prevention and criminal justice (agenda item 6); and turning the digital age into an opportunity: promoting the responsible use of technologies in crime prevention and criminal justice (workshop 4)**

1. An introductory presentation on the agenda item was delivered by a representative of the Secretariat. Statements were made by the representatives of Egypt, Morocco and the United Arab Emirates.
2. A statement was also made by the observer for the Alliance of NGOs on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.

### Summary of deliberations

3. During the discussion on agenda item 6 and workshop 4 of the Congress, the importance of strengthening regional and international cooperation in criminal matters was stressed by several speakers as an essential component to address transnational crime in all its forms and manifestations. Some speakers underlined still existing challenges to an effective regional and international cooperation in criminal matters and stressed the need to address and overcome such challenges, including those related to the lack of existing bilateral agreements. In this regard, the use of relevant international crime conventions, such as UNTOC and UNCAC, was mentioned as an appropriate legal basis to ensure an effective international cooperation towards the detection and prosecution of different forms of crime.
4. Capacity-building, including on the specific topic of the use of digital evidence, was identified as a priority, with some speakers calling for the support and guidance by UNODC in this connection.



5. Some speakers highlighted the importance of the United Nations Convention against Cybercrime, recognizing it as a foundational framework for fostering international cooperation in efforts to counter cybercrime. The use of international and regional, inter-agency, and public-private sector collaboration was identified as particularly important for the prevention and response to cyber-enabled or cyber-dependent crimes against children. In this regard, examples were provided of successful national initiatives on the use of artificial intelligence in the investigation and prosecution of crimes against children.

6. The responsible use of artificial intelligence and other new and advanced technologies was discussed, with some speakers noting the potential positive effects for enhanced efficiency within criminal justice systems. The potential for technology to improve information exchange, coordination, and the swift and effective response to emerging threats was also identified. In this regard, reference was made to the potential positive impact that new technology can have in the delivery of justice services to the most vulnerable members of society. Several speakers stressed the need to ensure the protection of fundamental human rights as well as to ensure that the use of artificial intelligence in criminal proceedings is monitored by human beings.

7. During the discussion, reference was further made to the need to address links between the prevention of corruption and the protection of human rights, and a call was specifically made to address corruption also from a human rights' perspective. A specific reference was made to the risks posed by the so-called digital corruption, such as the misuse of private data by private companies. Finally, the importance of strong and interactive partnerships with the civil society, academia and private sector in the development and implementation of national crime prevention and criminal justice policies and programmes was underlined during the discussion.

#### **Outcome of deliberations**

8. The following recommendations, which were not negotiated by the participants, were identified:

(a) Strengthen regional and international mechanisms, both formal and informal ones, to promote international cooperation in criminal matters;

(b) Recognize and harness, with due safeguards, the use of digital technologies in criminal matters, including international cooperation;

(c) Develop guidance for the collection and use of digital evidence and the use of artificial intelligence, and provide technical assistance in this area to countries requiring support;

(d) Promote and support the capacity-building of criminal justice officials, particularly judges, on issues related to international cooperation in criminal matters, including on the transfer of sentenced persons to their countries of origin;

(e) Strengthen the capacity of criminal justice agencies to collect and utilize digital evidence to be able to better track, investigate and prosecute cyber-enabled crimes, particularly crimes committed by organized criminal groups and terrorist groups;

(f) Establish and strengthen regional networks to track and address serious forms of crimes, including transnational organized crime, drug-trafficking, terrorism, corruption and trafficking in cultural property, as well as crimes committed through information and communications technologies, and provide appropriate training and capacity-building to relevant officials in this regard;

(g) Under the auspices of UNODC, establish appropriate mechanisms to enhance international cooperation, including by creating and updating databases of competent national authorities responsible for extradition and mutual legal assistance or by establishing an online platform to support international cooperation covering issues such sharing of relevant information and good practices, training material as well as relevant national experiences;

(h) Support and foster the use of existing relevant United Nations crime conventions, such as UNTOC, UNCAC and the newly adopted United Nations Convention against Cybercrime, as a basis for international cooperation in criminal matters, particularly in cases in which bilateral international cooperation agreements are not in place. Promote the ratification of these conventions as well as of relevant international human rights instruments;

(i) Support the rapid entry into force of the newly adopted United Nations Convention against Cybercrime; consider the possible future strengthening of the international legal framework targeting specific types of cyber-enabled crimes such as terrorism, hate crimes, trafficking in cultural property and drug-trafficking;

(j) Adopt the necessary measures, including legislative ones, to create a safe cyberspace environment, particularly for children and women, while respecting the freedom of individuals, particularly the principle of freedom of expression;

(k) Strengthen partnerships and engagement between criminal justice agencies and social media platforms providers to prevent and counter cybercrimes, in particular crimes against children; harness the positive use of artificial intelligence by law enforcement officials in the prevention and investigation of crimes against children;

(l) Ensure that the use of artificial intelligence in criminal justice respects the fundamental human rights of individuals, particularly the one to privacy, and develop safeguards and accountability mechanisms for the use of digital technologies in criminal justice systems, including by making sure that the use of artificial intelligence in criminal justice is supervised by human beings;

(m) Support the development, in cooperation with the private sector and under the auspices of UNODC, of tools on the use of artificial intelligence in crime prevention and criminal justice, including tools on the issue of collecting and utilizing digital evidence;

(n) Consider the development of rules, guidance and regulations for countries on the use of artificial intelligence in crime prevention and criminal justice, with the involvement of UNODC;

(o) Recognize and support the role of civil society organizations, academia and private sector organizations in the development as well as in the implementation of national crime prevention and criminal justice policies and strategies;

(p) Promote measures to prevent and counter corruption not only as a crime but also as a significant violation of human rights of citizens; prevent digital corruption and ensure the integrity of private data;

(q) Provide continuous learning, education programmes and awareness initiatives on specific forms of crimes for relevant sectors of the society, including media, civil society organizations and academia.