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**Follow-up to the Twelfth United Nations Congress  
on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and  
preparations for the Thirteenth United Nations  
Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice****Follow-up to the Twelfth United Nations Congress on Crime  
Prevention and Criminal Justice and preparations for the  
Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention  
and Criminal Justice****Report of the Secretary-General***Summary*

The present report provides a brief overview of the ongoing preparations for the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, including the elaboration of a draft discussion guide for the regional preparatory meetings and the Congress itself. The report contains information on the approval by the General Assembly, in its resolution 67/184, of the overall theme, the agenda items and the topics for the workshops of the Thirteenth Congress. The report also highlights the role and importance of the Thirteenth Congress, which marks the sixtieth anniversary of United Nations congresses on crime prevention and criminal justice in fostering policy debate on the importance of the criminal justice system for the promotion of the rule of law, including within the context of the post-2015 development agenda.

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\* E/CN.15/2013/1.



## **I. Introduction**

1. The present report has been submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 67/184, entitled “Follow-up to the Twelfth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and preparations for the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice”, in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to ensure proper follow-up to the resolution and to report thereon to the Assembly through the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its twenty-second session.

## **II. Programme of work**

### **A. Venue and duration of the Thirteenth Congress**

2. In its resolution 65/230, the General Assembly endorsed the Salvador Declaration on Comprehensive Strategies for Global Challenges: Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Systems and Their Development in a Changing World adopted at the high-level segment of the Twelfth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. In that resolution, the General Assembly also welcomed with appreciation the offer of the Government of Qatar to act as host to the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, in 2015.

3. In its resolution 67/184, the General Assembly decided that the duration of the Thirteenth Congress should not exceed eight days, including pre-Congress consultations. The exact dates of the Congress, as well as the date of the pre-Congress consultations and the timing and duration of the high-level segment of the Congress, will be decided by the Commission at its twenty-second session (see para. 25 below).

### **B. Theme of the Thirteenth Congress**

4. In its resolution 67/184, the General Assembly decided that the main theme of the Thirteenth Congress would be “Integrating crime prevention and criminal justice into the wider United Nations agenda to address social and economic challenges and to promote the rule of law at the national and international levels, and public participation”.

### **C. Provisional agenda**

5. In its resolution 67/184, the General Assembly approved the following provisional agenda for the Thirteenth Congress, finalized by the Commission at its twenty-first session:

1. Opening of the Congress.
2. Organizational matters.

3. Successes and challenges in implementing comprehensive crime prevention and criminal justice policies and strategies to promote the rule of law at the national and international levels, and to support sustainable development.
4. International cooperation, including at the regional level, to combat transnational organized crime.
5. Comprehensive and balanced approaches to prevent and adequately respond to new and emerging forms of transnational crime.
6. National approaches to public participation in strengthening crime prevention and criminal justice.
7. Adoption of the report of the Congress.

#### **D. Workshops**

6. In its resolution 67/184, the General Assembly decided that the following issues would be considered by workshops to be held within the framework of the Thirteenth Congress:

(a) Role of the United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice in support of effective, fair, humane and accountable criminal justice systems: experiences and lessons learned in meeting the unique needs of women and children, in particular the treatment and social reintegration of offenders;

(b) Trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants: successes and challenges in criminalization, in mutual legal assistance and in effective protection of witnesses and trafficking victims;

(c) Strengthening crime prevention and criminal justice responses to evolving forms of crime such as cybercrime and trafficking in cultural property, including lessons learned and international cooperation;

(d) Public contribution to crime prevention and raising awareness of criminal justice: experiences and lessons learned.

7. In the same resolution, the General Assembly emphasized the importance of the workshops and invited 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.

8. The following institutes undertook a leading role in the organization of the workshops: the Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Humanitarian Rights and Humanitarian Law (for the first workshop); the European Institute for Crime Prevention and Control, affiliated with the United Nations (for the second workshop); the National Institute of Justice of the United States Department of Justice (for the third workshop); and the Australian Institute of Criminology (for the fourth workshop).

## **E. Structure and conduct of the Thirteenth Congress**

9. In the same resolution, the Assembly also invited Member States to be represented at the Thirteenth Congress at the highest possible level, for example, by Heads of State or Government, Government ministers or attorneys general, to make statements on the theme and topics of the Thirteenth Congress and to participate actively in the high-level segment.

10. The Assembly also requested the Secretary-General to facilitate the organization of ancillary meetings of non-governmental and professional organizations participating in the Thirteenth 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 encouraged Member States to actively participate in the above-mentioned meetings, as they provided an opportunity to develop and maintain strong partnerships with the private sector and civil society organizations.

11. The Secretariat intends to carry out preparations pertaining to the structure and conduct of the Thirteenth Congress, also taking into account the deliberations of the Commission at previous sessions.<sup>1</sup> Further, consideration will be given to the inherent nature of the Congress as the only major United Nations conference in its field, constituting the largest and most diverse gathering of a broad range of policymakers and practitioners in the area of crime prevention and criminal justice.

## **F. Outcome of the Thirteenth Congress**

12. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 56/119, each United Nations congress on crime prevention and criminal justice should adopt a single declaration containing recommendations derived from the deliberations of the high-level segment, the round tables and the workshops, to be submitted to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice for its consideration. Accordingly, the Thirteenth Congress shall adopt a single declaration, to be submitted to the Commission for its consideration, and the declaration shall contain recommendations reflecting the deliberations of the high-level segment, as well as the discussion of agenda items and the workshops of the Congress.

## **G. Resource allocation**

13. In its resolution 67/184, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to facilitate the organization of regional preparatory meetings for the Thirteenth Congress and to make available the necessary resources for the participation of the least developed countries in those meetings and in the Congress itself, in accordance with past practice and in consultation with Member States.

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<sup>1</sup> See the reports of the twentieth and twenty-first session of the Commission (*Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2011, Supplement No. 10 (E/2011/30)*, chap. VI, sect. A, para. 91); and *ibid.*, 2012, *Supplement No. 10* and corrigenda (E/2012/30 and Corr.1 and 2), chap. VI, sect. A, para. 84)); see also E/CN.15/2011/15, paras. 48-51.

14. As reported in the financial statement on the revised draft resolution of the Crime Commission that was subsequently adopted by the General Assembly as resolution 67/184, the resource requirements to provide for the following activities will be reviewed in the context of the programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015, in accordance with established budgetary procedures:

(a) Assistance with the preparation, documentation and servicing of the preparatory meetings of the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and of the Congress itself;

(b) Specialized expertise to prepare technical research papers on the substantive agenda items and workshop topics of the Thirteenth Congress;

(c) Participation of the least developed countries in the regional preparatory meetings for the Thirteenth Congress and in the Congress itself;

(d) The travel of staff to provide substantive servicing for the regional preparatory meetings of the Thirteenth Congress.

### **III. Regional preparatory meetings for the Thirteenth Congress**

15. As stated in paragraph 13 above, in its resolution 67/184, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to facilitate the organization of regional preparatory meetings for the Thirteenth Congress. Furthermore, the Assembly urged participants in the regional preparatory meetings to examine the substantive items on the agenda and the topics of the workshops of the Thirteenth Congress and to make action-oriented recommendations to serve as a basis for the draft recommendations and conclusions for consideration by the Thirteenth Congress.

16. After consultations with the United Nations regional commissions, preliminary arrangements have been made for the organization of four regional preparatory meetings for the Thirteenth Congress, as follows:

(a) Asian and Pacific Regional Preparatory Meeting, tentatively scheduled to be held from 22 to 24 January 2014 at the seat of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific in Bangkok;

(b) Western Asian Regional Preparatory Meeting, tentatively scheduled to be held from 5 to 7 February 2014 at the seat of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia in Beirut;

(c) Latin American and Caribbean Regional Preparatory Meeting, tentatively scheduled to be held from 19 to 21 February 2014 at the seat of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean in Santiago;

(d) African Regional Preparatory Meeting, tentatively scheduled to be held from 9 to 11 April 2014 at the seat of the Economic Commission for Africa in Addis Ababa.

#### **IV. Discussion guide for the regional preparatory meetings and for the Thirteenth Congress**

17. In its resolution 67/184, 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 and for the Thirteenth Congress in a timely manner in order to enable those meetings to be held as early as possible in 2014, and invited Member States to be actively involved in that process.

18. In line with resolution 67/184, in which the General Assembly approved the theme, agenda items and workshop topics for the Thirteenth Congress, a draft discussion guide for the regional preparatory meetings and the Congress was prepared by the Secretariat. The discussion guide, in its final form, will be used as a key substantive document to guide the deliberations at the regional preparatory meetings and the Congress itself. The draft text of the discussion guide is being made available to the Commission at its twenty-second session with a view to affording Member States an opportunity to offer feedback or comments on its content.

19. The following institutes of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme network provided relevant input to the discussion guide, especially in its segments relating to the workshops of the Thirteenth Congress: the Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law, the European Institute for Crime Prevention and Control, affiliated with the United Nations, the National Institute of Justice of the United States Department of Justice and the Australian Institute of Criminology (see para. 8 above).

#### **V. The contribution of the Thirteenth Congress to the promotion of the rule of law and the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda**

20. In December 2011, the President of the Economic and Social Council addressed a letter to the Chairs of the functional commissions of the Council, seeking the input of the functional commissions regarding key issues that should find their place in the so-called “post-2015 development agenda”.

21. At its reconvened twenty-first session on 6 and 7 December 2012, the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice considered the written inputs by Member States for the post-2015 development agenda, as contained in a conference room paper made available at that session. Those contributions, along with a summary of the deliberations during the reconvened twenty-first session, were reflected in the response of the Chairperson of the Commission at its twenty-first session to the President of the Economic and Social Council.

22. The Thirteenth Congress marks the sixtieth anniversary of United Nations congresses on crime prevention and criminal justice. In view of the fact that it is being convened on the threshold of the establishment and beginning of the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda, the Thirteenth Congress provides a unique opportunity to place at centre stage the role of the criminal justice system in the promotion of the rule of law and in support of sustainable development.

23. In drafting the discussion guide for the regional preparatory meetings and the Thirteenth Congress, the Secretariat has taken into account the role of crime prevention and criminal justice as key components of the rule of law, on the one hand, and social and economic development, on the other. The Commission may wish to provide further guidance on areas, priorities and needs with respect to which a more in-depth dialogue on that role could be pursued. More specifically, the Commission may wish to explore and advise on the contribution that the Thirteenth Congress could make to the broader United Nations wide efforts for the protection and promotion of the rule of law and the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda.

## **VI. Conclusions and recommendations, including action required by the Commission**

24. In its resolution 67/184, the General Assembly requested the Commission to accord sufficient time at its twenty-second session to reviewing the progress made in the preparations for the Thirteenth 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. This includes, in particular, the review of the draft discussion guide for the regional preparatory meetings and for the Thirteenth Congress. Member States may wish to provide feedback and comments on the content of the draft discussion guide with a view to its early finalization.

25. In addition, the Commission may wish to take further action on the following issues:

- (a) Decide on the dates of the Thirteenth Congress;
- (b) Decide on the timing and duration of the high-level segment of the Thirteenth Congress;
- (c) Request the Secretary-General to appoint a Secretary-General and an Executive Secretary of the Thirteenth Congress, in accordance with past practice, to perform the functions set out in the rules of procedure for United Nations congresses on crime prevention and criminal justice;
- (d) Request the Secretariat to prepare a plan for the documentation for the Thirteenth Congress, in consultation with the extended bureau of the Commission.

26. The Commission may also wish to consider, in its capacity as preparatory body for the Thirteenth Congress, concrete ways and means to strengthen the role of the Congress in fostering policy debate on the importance of the promotion of the rule of law at the national and international levels as a response to social and economic challenges and in support of sustainable development. In doing so, the Commission may wish to take into particular account the emphasis placed by the General Assembly, in its resolution 67/184, on the importance of integrating crime prevention and criminal justice into the broader United Nations agenda to address, inter alia, social and economic challenges and to promote the rule of law at the national and international levels.