



UNITED NATIONS



EIGHTH
UNITED NATIONS CONGRESS
ON THE PREVENTION OF CRIME
AND THE TREATMENT OF OFFENDERS

Havana, Cuba, 27 August to 7 September 1990

Distr.
GENERAL

A/CONF.144/INF.1
28 March 1990

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

INFORMATION FOR PARTICIPANTS

I. BACKGROUND

1. The United Nations quinquennial congresses on the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders have a long tradition, tracing their origin to the international penitentiary congresses that had been organized by the International Penal and Penitentiary Commission since the nineteenth century. In 1950, the General Assembly, in its resolution 415 (V), authorized the transfer of the functions of the Commission to the United Nations, and approved a plan whereby the United Nations would undertake, *inter alia*, to convene every five years a world-wide congress, so as to provide a forum for discussions of priority concerns by policy makers, administrators, academicians and other professionals in the field.
2. The First United Nations Congress for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders was held at Geneva in 1955; the Second Congress, with the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland acting as host, was held in London in 1960; the Third Congress, with the Government of Sweden acting as host, was held at Stockholm in 1965; the Fourth Congress, with the Government of Japan acting as host, was held at Kyoto in 1970; the Fifth Congress was held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva in 1975; the Sixth Congress, with the Government of Venezuela acting as host, was held at Caracas in 1980; and the Seventh Congress, with the Government of Italy acting as host, was held in Milan in 1985.
3. Through these congresses, the United Nations has played a crucial role in the formulation, adoption and implementation of important international instruments for the application of criminal justice norms and standards. These instruments are as follows: Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners; Code of Conduct for Law Enforcement Officials; Declaration on the Protection of All Persons from Being Subjected to Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment; Safeguards Guaranteeing Protection of the Rights of those Facing the Death Penalty; Guiding Principles for Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in the Context of Development and a New International Economic Order; Standard Minimum Rules for the Administration of Juvenile Justice; Basic Principles on the Independence of the Judiciary; Model Agreement on the Transfer of Foreign Prisoners and Recommendations on the Treatment of Foreign Prisoners; Declaration of Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power. Also, on the recommendation of the Seventh Congress, resolution 11, the Principles on the Effective Prevention and Investigation of Extra-Legal, Arbitrary and Summary Executions were adopted by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1989/65, annex.
4. The Seventh Congress alone adopted six of these instruments and passed 24 resolutions on a broad range of issues, all texts being adopted by consensus. The resolutions adopted at that Congress concerned matters such as

terrorism, organized crime, drug abuse, victims of crime, status of prisoners, human rights of prisoners, reduction of prison populations, alternatives to imprisonment and social integration of offenders, extra-legal, arbitrary and summary executions, rights of those facing the death penalty, transfer of criminal proceedings, code of conduct for law enforcement officials and role of lawyers. Resolutions were also passed on youth, crime and justice, training of criminal justice personnel and exchange of criminal justice information and expertise, and the establishment of the African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders.

5. The Committee on Crime Prevention and Control, at its ninth session in 1986, considered the subject of the Eighth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 32/60 and Economic and Social Council resolution 1979/19, which entrusted the Committee, *inter alia*, with the preparation of the United Nations congresses on the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders. The Council, by its resolution 1987/49, considered the recommendations of the Committee, approving the provisional agenda for the Eighth Congress. Subsequently, this resolution was endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 42/59.

6. In 1988, at its tenth session, the Committee took note of the report of the Secretary-General on the continuation of preparations for the Eighth Congress, examined the recommendations made by the interregional preparatory meetings and reviewed the proposed draft instruments. At its first regular session of 1989, the Economic and Social Council adopted resolution 1989/69, in which it took note of the reports of the five interregional preparatory meetings, endorsed the recommendations contained therein, and recommended that the regional meetings should consider them in depth and make specific comments concerning the proposed draft instruments.

7. In its resolution 44/72, the General Assembly invited the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control, at its eleventh session, to give priority attention to the conclusions and recommendations of its Sub-Committee and to consider their appropriate follow-up by the Eighth Congress; reiterated its invitation to Governments to participate actively in the preparation for the Eighth Congress; urged Member States to contribute to the two research workshops to be held during the Congress; requested the Eighth Congress to pay particular attention to the linkages between illicit drug trafficking, organized crime and terrorist criminal activities; called for strengthened international co-operation in crime prevention; and requested the Secretary-General to ensure that the substantive and organizational work of the Congress was fully adequate for its successful outcome.

8. Finally, the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control, at its eleventh session in 1990, unanimously approved the report of its Sub-Committee on the review of the functioning and programme of work of the United Nations in crime prevention and criminal justice entitled "The need for the creation of an effective international crime and justice programme", which recommended that the Eighth Congress should consider the report under item 3 of its provisional agenda; and, having reviewed all draft resolutions and draft instruments, decided to transmit them, through the Economic and Social Council, for action by the Congress.

II. DATE AND PLACE

9. The Eighth Congress will be held at Havana from 27 August to 7 September 1990, with the Government of Cuba acting as host. The site of the meeting will be the Palacio de Convenciones. Its facilities offer all the services needed to guarantee the success of the event, such as a plenary hall seating 1,450 and 11 other rooms each seating from 70 to 400 people. These rooms have facilities for simultaneous interpretation in six languages; closed circuit colour television; videotape, cassette and tape recording services; 16- and 35-mm film and slide projection; air conditioning; and a parliamentary seating system. Other facilities at the Palacio are as follows: print shop, typing pool and photocopy service; office rental; five snack bars, cafeteria, banquet and reception area accommodating 2,000 persons; the Bucán Restaurant seating 500 persons; international telex, international telephone and a press centre; medical care; and exhibition areas.

III. GENERAL THEME AND AGENDA

10. The general theme of the Congress, as decided by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1989/69 on the recommendation of the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control, is "International co-operation in crime prevention and criminal justice for the twenty-first century". Under this theme, five major topics below are on the provisional agenda of the Congress, which was approved in Council resolution 1987/49.

<u>Topic number</u>	<u>Item number on the agenda</u>	<u>Topic</u>
I	3	Crime prevention and criminal justice in the context of development: realities and perspectives of international co-operation.
II	4	Criminal justice policies in relation to problems of imprisonment, other penal sanctions and alternative measures.
III	5	Effective national and international action against: (a) organized crime; (b) terrorist criminal activities.
IV	6	Prevention of delinquency, juvenile justice and the protection of the young: policy approaches and directions.
V	7	United Nations norms and guidelines in crime prevention and criminal justice: implementation and priorities for further standard setting.

Topic I will serve as the umbrella topic for the Eighth Congress and will be discussed in continuous plenary sessions, whereas the other topics will be dealt with by two main committees.

11. On the recommendation of the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control, the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1989/62 decided to include the topics of transnational crimes against the environment and against the cultural patrimony of countries as a sub-item under provisional agenda item 3 (topic I). Similarly, the question of domestic violence will be discussed under provisional agenda item 6 (topic IV).

12. In pursuance of Economic and Social Council resolution 1989/69 and the recommendations of the Committee, a number of draft international instruments will be presented to the Congress for adoption. These include: draft Standard Minimum Rules for Non-custodial Measures (the Tokyo Rules), draft Bilateral Model Treaty on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters, draft Model Treaty on Extradition, draft United Nations Guidelines for the Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency (the Guidelines of Riyadh), draft United Nations Rules for the Protection of Juveniles Deprived of their Liberty, draft Basic Principles on the Role of Lawyers, draft Model Agreement on the Transfer of Proceedings in Criminal Matters, draft Model Agreement on Transfer of Supervision of Offenders Who Have Been Conditionally Sentenced or Conditionally Released, draft Model Treaty for the Prevention of Crimes that Infringe on the Cultural Heritage of Peoples in the Form of Movable Property, draft Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms by Law Enforcement Officials and draft Basic Principles on the Role of Prosecutors. A number of other draft resolutions will also be submitted to the Congress, for example, on the role of criminal law in the protection of nature and the environment, the computerization of criminal justice, the protection of the human rights of victims of crime and abuse of power, and the prevention of urban crime.

IV. PREPARATORY MEETINGS

13. Five interregional preparatory meetings, one on each of the substantive topics, were organized in Vienna in 1988. Five regional preparatory meetings of Government representatives were held in the different regions of the world, between April and June 1989, each dealing with all agenda items from a regional perspective. Reports of all those meetings are available as official United Nations documents (A/CONF.144/IPM.1-5 and A/CONF.144/RPM.1-5).

V. PARTICIPATION

14. In accordance with the provisional rules of procedure of the Eighth Congress, as approved by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1989/69, the following categories of participants will be invited to the Congress:

(a) Representatives of States officially designated by their Governments. Delegations may include experts in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice and those directly concerned with policies and programmes affecting the prevention and control of crime and delinquency;

(b) Representatives designated by the United Nations Council for Namibia;

(c) Observers from organizations and from national liberation movements that have received a standing invitation from the General Assembly to participate in the sessions and work of all international conferences convened under its auspices, in accordance with Assembly resolutions 3237 (XXIX), 3280 (XXIX) and 31/152;

(d) Representatives designated by organs of the United Nations;

(e) Representatives of the specialized agencies of the United Nations and of the International Atomic Energy Agency, in the capacity of observers;

(f) Observers designated by interested intergovernmental organizations;

(g) Observers designated by interested non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council;

(h) Individual experts in the field of crime prevention and the treatment of offenders invited by the Secretary-General to participate as observers in their individual capacity. Such individual experts may include, *inter alia*, members of the teaching staff of universities, of criminological or social research institutes and of national non-governmental organizations concerned with crime prevention and the treatment of offenders, staff of correctional establishments and institutions for juvenile delinquents, members of courts and bar associations, social workers, youth workers, specialists in education, specialists in behavioural sciences and police officials;

(i) Expert consultants invited by the Secretariat;

(j) Officials of the United Nations Secretariat;

(k) Other persons invited by the United Nations.

Experts who wish to participate are advised to communicate their interest to the Executive Secretary of the Congress (see paragraph 33 below, for the address).

VI. COSTS OF PARTICIPATION

15. All costs of participation will be the responsibility of participating Governments for their delegations, of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations for their representatives and of individuals for their own participation. In accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1987/49, the United Nations will, however, bear the costs of travel and subsistence for one representative from each of the least developed countries. The United Nations will also bear the cost of travel and subsistence for one representative of each of the national liberation movements referred to in paragraph 14 (c) above.

VII. DOCUMENTATION

16. The Secretariat of the United Nations is preparing a working paper on each of the substantive topics on the provisional agenda of the Eighth Congress. These documents will form the basis for discussion by identifying and describing the issues, indicating the priorities and concerns of States and defining the major issues involved. In addition, the Congress will have before it many other documents, such as the reports of the interregional and regional preparatory meetings, and other reports including a manual on practical measures for anti-corruption efforts, a practical guide for the implementation of the Declaration of Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power, an inventory of crime prevention measures, the Third United Nations Survey of Crime Trends, Operations of Criminal Justice Systems and Crime Prevention Strategies, domestic violence, the computerization of criminal justice administration, and other reports on the implementation of the conclusions and recommendations of the Seventh Congress. National statements prepared by participating States will be distributed at the Congress in the languages and quantity provided. The specialized agencies and the non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council may also prepare background documentation on specific questions

pertaining to the subject matter under consideration. Information copies of all national statements and other relevant documents should be submitted as soon as possible to the Executive Secretary of the Eighth Congress.

VIII. LANGUAGES

17. In accordance with the provisional rules of procedure, rule 46, the official languages of the Eighth Congress are Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish.

IX. PRE-CONGRESS CONSULTATIONS

18. In accordance with established practice for major United Nations conferences, and in pursuance of Economic and Social Council resolution 1989/69, the Eighth Congress will be preceded by two days of pre-Congress consultations open to all participating States. The purpose is to reach agreement on the recommendations to be made on all procedural and organizational matters to be dealt with by the Congress on the opening day, such as the election of officers and composition of the General Committee, the distribution of posts between the regional groups in the General Committee, the adoption of the agenda and organization of work, the appointment of members of the Credentials Committee and the arrangements for the preparation of the report of the Congress.

X. OTHER ACTIVITIES

A. Research workshop

19. The Secretariat will organize a one-day research workshop on alternatives to imprisonment with the collaboration of the United Nations, Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI), the United Nations regional institutes for the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders and the national and international research institutes concerned.

B. Demonstration workshop

20. The Secretariat will organize, in co-operation with the Helsinki Institute for Crime Prevention and Control, affiliated with the United Nations (HEUNI), a workshop on the computerization of criminal justice administration, in pursuance of Economic and Social Council resolution 1989/69. Governments are invited to make a demonstration of their software applications, accompanied by short papers describing them, and to present general reports on the experience gained in the computerization of criminal justice systems in their countries.

C. Scientific lectures

21. At the invitation of the Secretary-General, as at past congresses, eminent experts and scholars will give lectures on selected issues relating to the topics of the provisional agenda.

D. General meeting of national correspondents

22. A general meeting of national correspondents, in attendance as members of Government delegations, will be convened to discuss such priority issues as improved means of securing international and regional co-operation. Member States are encouraged to include national correspondents in their delegations to the Eighth Congress.

E. Meetings of regional and interregional institutes

23. A series of meetings, sponsored by the United Nations regional and inter-regional institutes for the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders, will be convened to discuss issues of mutual concern.

F. Ancillary meetings of non-governmental organizations

24. Non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council and other professional organizations will hold ancillary meetings on issues relating to items of the provisional agenda. While this programme is still being finalized, the Alliance of Non-Governmental Organizations on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice has proposed the following topics: (a) children in prison with their mothers; (b) drugs and criminality; (c) alternatives to incarceration; (d) implementation of United Nations standards and norms related to criminal justice and the treatment of offenders; (e) victims declaration; and (f) aids and imprisonment.

G. Special-interest meetings

25. A number of meetings will be held for professional and geographical interest groups participating in the Congress.

H. Media activities

26. Regular United Nations press and other media facilities will be available at the Congress. Journalists wishing to cover the Congress should apply for accreditation from the United Nations. All media inquiries should be addressed to:

Information Officer
Eighth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime
and the Treatment of Offenders
Room S-1061
Department for Public Information
United Nations
New York, NY 10017
United States of America

Telephone: 212-963-0353/4896
Telex: 420544, 62450, 177642
Telefax: 212-963-4556

XI. NATIONAL ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

27. On 5 April 1990, the Government of Cuba established a National Organizing Committee that is in charge of promoting and supervising all activities at the national level that are relevant to the success of the Eighth Congress. The Committee is chaired by the President of the National Assembly, Dr. Juan Escalona.

XII. VISA REQUIREMENTS

28. Participants requiring visas are requested to contact the nearest Cuban Embassy or Consulate. Visa applications should be accompanied by a copy of the official invitation from the Secretariat of the United Nations.

XIII. CURRENCY EXCHANGE

29. Currency exchange facilities will be available at the José Martí Airport and at the Palacio.

30. Eighteen foreign currencies are accepted in Cuba's hotels, restaurants, tourism stores and other duly marked establishments. These currencies are: Austrian schilling, Belgian franc, Canadian dollar, Danish krone, deutsche mark, Finnish markka, French franc, Italian lira, Japanese yen, Mexican peso, Netherlands guilder, Norwegian krone, Portuguese escudo, pound sterling, Spanish peseta, Swedish krona, Swiss franc and United States dollar. The rate of exchange will be the one in effect at the time of the event. Only cash and travellers cheques will be accepted.

XIV. IMPORT REGULATIONS ON FOOD

31. Cuban legislation concerning the introduction of food products is very strict, even in relation to canned products. Participants are advised to consult with Cuban diplomatic or consular representatives before taking any such products to Cuba.

XV. HOTEL RESERVATIONS

32. A central booking system for hotel accommodation has been established by the International Conference Centre, Havana (Palacio de Convenciones). In order to ensure that a sufficient number of rooms will be available to Congress participants, accommodation applications should be sent as soon as possible, but not later than 7 August, to the above-mentioned Conference Centre at Havana, telex: 511609 palco cu, telefax: 22-8382.

33. The Cuban authorities have provided a list of available accommodation as follows:

First-class hotel daily rate (breakfast not included)

	<u>Double room</u> (\$US)	<u>Single room</u> (\$US)
Habana Libre	85.00	64.00
Habana Riviera	73.00	55.00
Capri	70.00	50.00
Comodoro	70.00	50.00
Presidente	70.00	50.00

Second-class hotel daily rate (breakfast not included)

	<u>Double room</u> (\$US)	<u>Single room</u> (\$US)
Tritón	53.00	40.00
Vedado	53.00	40.00
Deauville	46.00	35.00
Saint John's	43.00	33.00
Biocaribe	43.00	33.00

Residences: A number of residences will be available. Daily rate (minimum) per person is \$US 40.00 (breakfast included).

Marina Hemingway Apartment Hotel: Daily rate per room in a one-room apartment is \$US 66.00 and a two-room apartment is \$US 76.00 (breakfast included).

Bungalows Comodoro: Daily rate per room (breakfast not included) in a one-room apartment is \$US 76.00, a two-room apartment is \$US 90.00 and three rooms \$US 120.00.

Yagrumas Hotel: Daily rate per room in a double room is \$US 34.00, a single room is \$US 29.00 (breakfast included).

34. It should be noted that registration for the Eighth Congress and hotel reservations are not handled by the same office. Therefore, Congress registration as described in paragraph 32 below is required as well as hotel reservations.

XVI. REGISTRATION

35. In order to enable the United Nations Secretariat to undertake the necessary preparations for the Congress, the registration forms, which are being forwarded to Governments and other participants, have to be returned to the Congress secretariat by 15 August at the latest.

36. Inquiries regarding registration and other pertinent matters should be addressed to the Executive Secretary, at the addresses given below.

Mr. Eduardo Vetere
Executive Secretary
Eighth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime
and the Treatment of Offenders
United Nations Office at Vienna
P.O. Box 500
A-1400 Vienna (Austria)

Telephone: 211-31 Ext. 5278, 4272 or 4269; also 237493 (direct line)
Country code number: 43
City code number: 222
Telex: 135 612
Telefax: 431-232156

This archiving project is a collaborative effort between United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and American Society of Criminology, Division of International Criminology. Any comments or questions should be directed to Cindy J. Smith at CJSmithphd@comcast.net or Emil Wandzilak at emil.wandzilak@unodc.org.