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Preparations for the Twelfth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

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Report of the Secretary-General**

I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 63/193, entitled “Preparations for the Twelfth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice”, in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to ensure the proper follow-up to the resolution and to report thereon to the Assembly through the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its eighteenth session.

II. Background

A. Venue and dates

2. Pursuant to the offer of the Government of Brazil to act as host to the Twelfth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and to General Assembly resolution 63/193, the Twelfth Congress will be held in Salvador, Brazil, from 12 to 19 April 2010, with pre-congress consultations to be held on 11 April and a high-level segment to be held on 18 and 19 April. The Government of Brazil has

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** The submission of the present document was delayed by the late receipt of the required information.



proposed the Bahia Convention Center in Salvador as the venue for the Twelfth Congress.

3. Following-up on the offer made by the Government of Brazil, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) undertook a planning mission from 19 to 23 January 2009. The mission held consultative meetings with local and national authorities in Salvador and Brasilia respectively. The purpose of the planning mission was (a) to establish contact with the competent authorities of the host country and to exchange views on the most practical and cost-effective ways to ensure efficient preparations (substantive and organizational) for the Twelfth Congress; (b) to visit the proposed Congress venue and ascertain how the facilities could be used in an efficient manner to meet the requirements of the Congress; (c) to provide the host country authorities with information on United Nations policy and practice in organizing conferences away from the established headquarters of United Nations entities; and (d) to review other arrangements required for the Congress.

4. At meetings held in Salvador, the UNODC representatives stressed its confidence in the commitment of local authorities to the success of the Twelfth Congress and their readiness to overcome delays and infrastructure shortcomings identified at that stage. In meetings with the National Organizing Committee in Brasilia, the mission emphasized the importance of establishing an executive secretariat within the Office of the Secretary of Justice to coordinate preparations for the Congress and deal with substantive and organizational issues. In general, the Government reiterated its intention to take as a matter of urgency all required actions to ensure timely and efficient preparations for the Congress.

5. At the time of writing of the present report, consultations between the Government and UNODC with regard to the Twelfth Congress were nearing completion. The Agreement provides the legal framework and contains detailed administrative and logistical arrangements and requirements for the Congress, including the estimated differential cost of the event, which will be borne by the Government.

B. Theme of the Twelfth Congress

6. In its resolution 63/193, the General Assembly decided that the main theme of the Twelfth Congress would be “Comprehensive strategies for global challenges: crime prevention and criminal justice systems and their development in a changing world”.

C. Provisional agenda

7. In its resolution 63/193, the General Assembly approved the following provisional agenda for the Twelfth Congress, finalized by the Commission at its seventeenth session:

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

3. Children, youth and crime.
4. Provision of technical assistance to facilitate the ratification and implementation of the international instruments related to the prevention and suppression of terrorism.
5. Making the United Nations guidelines on crime prevention work.
6. Criminal justice responses to the smuggling of migrants and trafficking in persons: links to transnational organized crime.
7. International cooperation to address money-laundering based on existing and relevant United Nations and other instruments.
8. Recent developments in the use of science and technology by offenders and by competent authorities in fighting crime, including the case of cybercrime.
9. Strengthening international cooperation in fighting crime-related problems: practical approaches.
10. Crime prevention and criminal justice responses to violence against migrants, migrant workers and their families.
11. Adoption of the report of the Congress.

D. Workshops

8. In its resolution 63/193, the General Assembly decided that the following issues would be considered by workshops to be held within the framework of the Twelfth Congress:

- (a) International criminal justice education for the rule of law;
- (b) Survey of United Nations and other best practices in the treatment of prisoners in the criminal justice system;
- (c) Practical approaches to preventing urban crime;
- (d) Links between drug trafficking and other forms of organized crime: international coordinated response;
- (e) Strategies and best practices against overcrowding in correctional facilities.

9. In the same resolution, the General Assembly emphasized the importance of the workshops to be held within the framework of the Twelfth Congress, and invited Member States, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and other relevant entities to provide financial, organizational and technical support to UNODC 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.

10. The following institutes expressed interest in playing a leading role in the organization of the workshops: the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute; the Asia and Far East Institute for the Prevention of Crime and

the Treatment of Offenders; the European Institute for Crime Prevention and Control, affiliated with the United Nations; the International Institute of Higher Studies in Criminal Sciences; and the International Centre for the Prevention of Crime.

11. No institute has yet come forward with regard to the organization of the Workshop on Links between Drug Trafficking and Other Forms of Organized Crime: International Coordinated Response.

E. Outcome of the Twelfth Congress

12. In accordance with paragraph 2 (h) of 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 for its consideration. Accordingly, the Twelfth Congress should adopt a single declaration for consideration by the Commission at its nineteenth session, in 2010.

F. Documentation

13. In its resolution 63/193, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to prepare a plan for the documentation for the Twelfth Congress, in consultation with the extended Bureau of the Commission. Accordingly, the Secretariat circulated to the extended Bureau the provisional documentation forecast for the Twelfth Congress; that forecast was as follows:

- (a) Basic documents:
 - (i) Reports of the four regional preparatory meetings for the Twelfth Congress;
 - (ii) Working papers on each of the eight substantive items of the provisional agenda for the Twelfth Congress;
 - (iii) Working papers on each of the topics of the five workshops to be held within the framework of the Twelfth Congress;
- (b) Background documents:
 - (i) Discussion guide on the substantive items on the agenda and workshop topics of the Twelfth Congress (A/CONF.213/PM.1);
 - (ii) National papers and reports submitted by Governments;
 - (iii) Reports submitted by entities of the United Nations system, including specialized agencies, and by institutes for the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders, affiliated with the United Nations;
 - (iv) Reports submitted by intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council and contributions by individual experts on the roster of the Secretariat, dealing with specific questions in their areas of concern.

G. Rules of procedure

14. Rule 63 of the rules of procedure for United Nations congresses on the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders provides as follows:

“After the completion of each Congress, the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice shall make appropriate recommendations to the Economic and Social Council for such amendments to the present rules as it may deem necessary.”

15. The rules of procedure will be made available to the Commission at its eighteenth session. In the absence of any amendments, the Twelfth Congress will be conducted in accordance with the current rules of procedure, supplemented by the guidelines contained in paragraph 2 of General Assembly resolution 56/119.

H. Resource allocation

16. In its resolution 62/173, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to make available the necessary resources for the participation of the least developed countries in the regional preparatory meetings for the Twelfth Congress and in the Congress itself, in accordance with past practice; and reiterated its request to the Secretary-General to provide UNODC with the necessary resources, from within the overall appropriations of the programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009, for the preparations for the Twelfth Congress and to ensure that adequate resources were provided in the programme budget for the biennium 2010-2011 to support the holding of the Congress.

17. In its resolution 63/193, the General Assembly reiterated its request to the Secretary-General to facilitate the organization of regional preparatory meetings for the Twelfth 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.

18. In that regard, in the programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009, resources have been allocated for the preparations for the Twelfth Congress. In accordance with the practice followed for the Tenth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders and Eleventh United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, resources have been allocated for holding four regional preparatory meetings, including necessary resources for the participation of the least developed countries.

III. Regional preparatory meetings

19. At its sixteenth session, the Commission stressed the importance of holding regional preparatory meetings as a way to reflect regional concerns in the preparatory process of future congresses (E/2007/30/Rev.1, para. 161). The General Assembly, in its resolution 62/173, requested the Secretary-General to facilitate the organization of regional preparatory meetings, including meetings of the least developed countries, for the Twelfth Congress.

20. In its resolution 63/193, the General Assembly reiterated its request to the Secretary-General to facilitate the organization of regional preparatory meetings for the Twelfth Congress; and urged participants in the regional preparatory meetings to examine the substantive items on the agenda and the topics of the workshops of the Twelfth Congress and to make action-oriented recommendations to serve as a basis for the draft recommendations and conclusions for consideration by the Twelfth Congress and the Commission at its nineteenth session.

21. Four regional preparatory meetings for the Twelfth Congress are being held:

(a) Latin American and Caribbean Regional Preparatory Meeting, to be held in San José from 5 to 7 May 2009;

(b) Western Asian Regional Preparatory Meeting, to be held in Doha from 1 to 3 June 2009;

(c) Asian and Pacific Regional Preparatory Meeting, to be held in Bangkok from 1 to 3 July 2009;

(d) African Regional Preparatory Meeting, to be held in Nairobi from 8 to 10 September 2009.

IV. Discussion guide for the regional preparatory meetings

22. In its resolution 63/193, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to prepare, in cooperation with the institutes of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme network, a discussion guide for the regional preparatory meetings for the Twelfth Congress in a timely manner in order to enable the regional preparatory meetings to commence early in 2009, and invited Member States to be actively involved in that process.

23. Following the approval by the General Assembly, in its resolution 63/193, of the theme, agenda items and workshop topics for the Twelfth Congress, a discussion guide for the regional preparatory meetings was prepared and will be made available to the Commission at its eighteenth session.

24. The text of the discussion guide takes into account comments and suggestions received from Algeria, Argentina, Burundi, Egypt, Kuwait, Mexico, Portugal, Romania and Turkey. Most of the comments received in due time were taken into account for the finalization of the discussion guide. In any case, it is envisaged that national views and positions on the issues covered by the discussion guide can be raised for further discussion during the regional preparatory meetings. In addition, the following institutes of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme network provided relevant input to the discussion guide: the Asia and Far East Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders; the European Institute for Crime Prevention and Control, affiliated with the United Nations; and the International Centre for the Prevention of Crime.

V. Conclusions and recommendations, including action required by the Commission

25. In its resolution 63/193, the General Assembly requested the Commission to accord sufficient time at its eighteenth session to reviewing the progress made in the preparations for the Twelfth Congress, to finalize in good time all the necessary organizational and substantive arrangements and to make its recommendations.

26. In that connection, action is required by the Commission with respect to the following:

(a) To approve the documentation for the Twelfth Congress listed in paragraph 13 above;

(b) To make recommendations on the public information activities for the Twelfth Congress, such activities to be undertaken in a timely manner in order to ensure that Governments, the relevant specialized agencies, United Nations programmes and intergovernmental organizations, professional organizations and civil society organizations are fully aware of and participate in the Congress and the preparations for the Congress.
