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Crime prevention and criminal justice

Follow-up to the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report has been prepared pursuant to General Assembly resolution [76/181](#), in which the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit to it at its seventy-seventh session a report on the implementation of that resolution. It contains a summary of the deliberations at the thirty-first session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, which was held in Vienna from 16 to 20 May 2022, on the follow-up to the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. The report also contains an overview of the action taken by the Commission, as the preparatory and follow-up body for the United Nations crime congresses, and of the activities conducted by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in follow-up to the Kyoto Declaration on Advancing Crime Prevention, Criminal Justice and the Rule of Law: Towards the Achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Pursuant to the resolution, the report further includes information on proposals submitted by Member States on other ways and means of ensuring appropriate follow-up to the Kyoto Declaration.

* [A/77/50](#).



I. Introduction

1. The present report has been prepared pursuant to General Assembly resolution [76/181](#), entitled “Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice”, in which the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit to it at its seventy-seventh session a report on the implementation of that resolution.
2. In the resolution, the General Assembly invited 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 Development 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.
3. In the same resolution, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to seek proposals by Member States on other ways and means of ensuring appropriate follow-up to the Kyoto Declaration, for consideration and action by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its thirty-first session.
4. Also in the same resolution, the General Assembly requested the Commission 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”.
5. The present report provides a summary of the deliberations at the thirty-first session of the Commission, which was held in Vienna from 16 to 20 May 2022, on the follow-up to the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. It contains an overview of the action taken by the Commission, as the preparatory and follow-up body for the United Nations crime congresses, and of the activities conducted by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), in follow-up to the Kyoto Declaration. Pursuant to paragraph 12 of the resolution, the report further includes information on proposals submitted by Member States on other ways and means of ensuring appropriate follow-up to the Kyoto Declaration.
6. The report complements the report of the Secretary-General on follow-up to the Fourteenth Congress and preparations for the Fifteenth Congress ([E/CN.15/2022/11](#)), which was considered by the Commission at its thirty-first session. It also complements the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the mandates of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme, with particular reference to the technical cooperation activities of UNODC ([A/77/127](#)), submitted for the consideration by the General Assembly at its seventy-seventh session, as mandated by the Assembly in its resolution [76/187](#).

II. Follow-up to and implementation of the Kyoto Declaration on Advancing Crime Prevention, Criminal Justice and the Rule of Law: Towards the Achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

A. Consideration by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its thirty-first session

7. The Fourteenth Congress was held in Kyoto, Japan, from 7 to 12 March 2021 under the overall theme “Advancing crime prevention, criminal justice and the rule of law: towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda”. It brought together more than 5,000 participants representing a record 152 Member States, along with 114 non-governmental organizations, 37 intergovernmental organizations, 600 individual experts and a considerable number of United Nations system entities

and institutes belonging to the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme network.

8. At the beginning of the high-level segment, Member States adopted the Kyoto Declaration, in which they agreed on concrete actions related to four pillars – advancing crime prevention; advancing the criminal justice system; promoting the rule of law; and promoting international cooperation and technical assistance to prevent and address all forms of crime – including against the backdrop of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic.

9. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution [76/181](#), the Commission reviewed the implementation of the Kyoto Declaration at its thirty-first session 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”.

10. Under that agenda item, the Commission had before it, for its consideration, the relevant report of the Secretary-General ([E/CN.15/2022/11](#)) containing an overview of the action taken by the Commission and the activities conducted by UNODC in follow-up to the Fourteenth Congress and provided information on the preparations for the Fifteenth Congress. It also contained information on proposals submitted by Member States before 24 February 2022 on other ways and means of ensuring appropriate follow-up to the Kyoto Declaration.¹ Finally, it included recommendations, including with regard to the preparations for the Fifteenth Congress.

11. The Commission also considered a conference room paper containing the Chair’s summary on the thematic discussions of the Commission on the implementation of the Kyoto Declaration ([E/CN.15/2022/CRP.1](#)). Pursuant to General Assembly resolution [76/181](#), the first round of thematic discussions had been held from 10 to 12 November 2021 and had been focused on the first pillar of the Kyoto Declaration (Advancing crime prevention). An interactive exchange had been facilitated among national experts and policymakers, United Nations system entities, intergovernmental organizations and civil society on good practices, challenges and lessons learned in advancing crime prevention.²

12. In his summary, the Chair of the Commission at its thirtieth session encouraged Member States and interested stakeholders to initiate timely preparations for the 2022 thematic sessions to facilitate the participation of relevant experts with a view to sharing good practices and discussing how to successfully implement the second pillar of the Kyoto Declaration (Advancing the criminal justice system).

13. The Commission further considered a conference room paper containing the Chair’s summary of the expert discussions on crimes that affect the environment ([E/CN.15/2022/CRP.2](#)). Pursuant to paragraph 87 of the Kyoto Declaration and to General Assembly resolution [76/185](#) on preventing and combating crimes that affect the environment, intersessional expert discussions had been conducted from 14 to 16 February 2022, fostering an interactive debate on concrete ways to improve strategies and responses to effectively prevent and combat crimes that affect the environment, and to strengthen international cooperation in that area at the operational level.³

14. In his summary, the Chair highlighted that joint efforts and actions to prevent and combat crimes that affect the environment were a key contribution to the full implementation of the Kyoto Declaration. He also reiterated the importance of retaining and collecting the good practices and lessons learned that delegations and experts had shared during the discussions, with a view to learning from the experiences of others and developing a better understanding of the challenges faced, as well as the tools that had yielded positive results.

¹ Proposals received after that date are contained in a conference room paper ([E/CN.15/2022/CRP.3](#)).

² See also [E/CN.15/2022/11](#).

³ Ibid.

15. To facilitate consideration of the agenda item on the follow-up to the Fourteenth Congress, the Secretary to the Commission made an introductory statement. Statements were made by the representatives of Canada, Chile, Japan, Libya, Saudi Arabia, Thailand and the United States of America. The observers for Iran (Islamic Republic of), Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and the European Union, also made statements. A statement was also made by the observer for the Asia and Far East Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders.

16. Appreciation was expressed to Japan as the host country of the Fourteenth Congress for organizing a successful congress, in particular in the light of the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. The importance of transforming the commitments contained in the Kyoto Declaration into concrete action was underscored. Some speakers shared information on national and regional efforts to implement the commitments made in the four pillars of the Declaration, including with regard to the implementation of United Nations standards and norms, the implementation of crime prevention and criminal justice strategies that were focused on vulnerable members of society, including in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic, and efforts to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of mutual legal assistance and extradition. Further national examples shared were focused on, among others, steps taken to strengthen the criminal justice system, including reducing recidivism through rehabilitation and reintegration efforts. Some speakers made reference to the need to address violence against women and children and to develop gender-responsive, child-sensitive and human rights-based justice policies. The importance of providing technical assistance to requesting Member States in support of national implementation of the Kyoto Declaration was underlined, and the support provided by UNODC in that regard was welcomed.

17. A number of speakers highlighted the link between crime prevention, criminal justice, the rule of law and the international community's efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The importance of raising awareness of the Kyoto Declaration and the important role of the criminal justice system in promoting the rule of law in support of sustainable development were underlined by a number of speakers. Several speakers welcomed the Kyoto Declaration follow-up process, in particular the organization of the thematic discussions of the Commission on the implementation of the Declaration. Furthermore, efforts undertaken by UNODC and Member States since the adoption of the Declaration, including in relation to standards and norms on preventing reoffending, were welcomed.

18. Reference was made to the Chair's high-level special event that had been held on the first day of the thirty-first session of the Commission and had been focused on the implementation of the Kyoto Declaration. Appreciation was expressed to Japan for the tabling of a resolution on the follow-up to the Fourteenth Congress and the preparations for the Fifteenth Congress. In reference to the preparations for the Fifteenth Congress, the importance of ensuring the timely adoption of the substantive agenda and the subsequent early preparation of the discussion guide and the preparatory workshops, in close coordination with the institutes of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme network, was underscored.

B. Action taken by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its thirty-first session

19. On Friday, 20 May 2022, the Commission took action on the draft resolution, 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", and recommended, through the Economic and Social Council, its adoption by the General Assembly. In that resolution, the General Assembly would reiterate its invitation to Governments to take into consideration the Kyoto Declaration 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.

20. In the same resolution, the General Assembly would welcome the initiative of the Government of Japan to work with UNODC, and through the Commission, in ensuring appropriate follow-up to the implementation of the Kyoto Declaration. The General Assembly would request the Commission, in accordance with its mandate, to continue to implement 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.

21. The General Assembly would decide to hold the Fifteenth Congress 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 in the implementation of the Kyoto Declaration.

22. The Assembly would invite Member States to provide their suggestions in relation to the overall theme, the agenda items and the topics for the workshops for the Fifteenth Congress and request the Secretary-General to include those suggestions in the report on the follow-up to the Fourteenth Congress and preparations for the Fifteenth Congress to be submitted to the Commission at its thirty-second session.

23. Furthermore, the Assembly would recommend that, building on the experience and the success of the Fourteenth Congress, all efforts be made to ensure that the overall theme, the agenda items and the topics for the workshops for the Fifteenth Congress were interrelated and that the agenda items and workshop topics were streamlined and limited in number, and encourage the holding of side events that were focused on and complemented the agenda items and workshops. The General Assembly would request the Commission to approve at its thirty-second session the overall theme, the agenda items and the topics for the workshops for the Fifteenth Congress.

24. The General Assembly would finally request the Secretary-General to submit to it at its seventy-eighth session a report on the implementation of the resolution.

C. Other activities of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its thirty-first session

25. The Commission has widely promoted the policy commitments contained in the Kyoto Declaration. On 16 May 2022, on the margins of its thirty-first session, the Chair of the Commission, in cooperation with the Government of Japan, held a high-level special event on a multifaceted approach to turning the Kyoto Declaration into action on the ground. The special event was an opportunity to take stock of and report on the initiatives launched since the adoption of the Kyoto Declaration in March 2021, focusing on efforts undertaken at the institutional level within the United Nations system; at the intergovernmental level through the Commission; and at the programmatic level, as well as efforts at the national and regional levels, including by stakeholders, to implement the commitments made in the Kyoto Declaration. Participants reviewed the conduct and outcome of the Fourteenth Congress and shared the experience of holding a large-scale international conference during the pandemic.

26. In addition, in July 2022, on the margins of the 2022 high-level political forum on sustainable development, the Crime Commission will hold an online side event together with the Commission on Narcotic Drugs entitled “Leveraging international action to address the impact of COVID-19 on drugs and crime: integrated multidisciplinary responses by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice”. The side event will serve to raise awareness, inter alia, about the work undertaken by the Crime Commission on

the interlinkages between the Sustainable Development Goals, on one hand, and the rule of law and crime prevention and criminal justice on the other. Information will be shared on the contributions made by the Commission to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

D. Action taken by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

27. UNODC undertook a number of initiatives with a view to ensuring a comprehensive approach to the follow-up to the Fourteenth Congress. An interdivisional task team was established to strengthen Office-wide coordination and cooperation in the implementation of the Kyoto Declaration and in the preparations for the Fifteenth Congress. The task team, comprising representatives from all UNODC divisions and led by the Secretariat to the Governing Bodies, meets periodically.

28. The interdivisional task team developed, for internal use, an implementation matrix that provides an overview of activities undertaken by UNODC and its partners in support of the implementation of the Kyoto Declaration. Those activities are focused on institutional follow-up within the United Nations system, intergovernmental follow-up through the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and programmatic follow-up through the substantive divisions of UNODC. The matrix can be sorted according to different criteria, including the pillars of the Declaration, the thematic areas and outcomes of the UNODC Strategy 2021–2025, and the Sustainable Development Goals to which activities contribute.

29. Taking into account the increased reliance on online channels of communication, the secretariat of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice launched an e-learning tool on the implementation of the Kyoto Declaration.⁴ The tool, which comprises three interactive modules, provides information on the background to the Declaration, its relationship to the 2030 Agenda and the substantive areas covered in the Declaration. The tool also contains information on the UNODC portfolio of technical assistance in relevant areas.

30. In June 2022, the Secretariat to the Governing Bodies held an online briefing for Member States on the implementation of the Kyoto Declaration in English, French and Spanish. The briefing was attended by national officials responsible for the planning and implementation of crime prevention and criminal justice policies and for planning and requesting technical assistance from UNODC in that regard. During the briefing, information was shared on technical assistance provided by UNODC in the substantive areas covered by the Declaration.

31. A briefing will be held in the second half of 2022 for the institutes of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme network and relevant non-governmental organizations to facilitate a comprehensive, multi-stakeholder discussion on the follow-up to the Fourteenth Congress.

32. In addition to the institutional follow-up, the Office carried out a wide range of programmatic activities in implementing the Kyoto Declaration.⁵

III. Proposals on other ways and means of ensuring appropriate follow-up to the Kyoto Declaration

33. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 76/181, a note verbale was sent to Member States with a request to submit proposals on ways and means of ensuring appropriate follow-up to the Kyoto Declaration. By the deadline of 30 March, a total

⁴ Available at <https://golearn.unodc.org/lms/login/index.php>.

⁵ See also E/CN.15/2022/11 and A/77/127.

of 10 proposals had been received, from Canada, Czechia, India, Japan, Mali, Morocco, the Philippines, Qatar, Romania and Türkiye.

34. In their proposals, many of those Member States highlighted the importance of sharing of information, including intelligence, and best practices, as well as of strengthening international cooperation among law enforcement agencies in the thematic areas covered by the Kyoto Declaration. It was proposed to establish different forums for cooperation, such as regional cooperation networks and open-ended intergovernmental expert groups or working groups, to enable national practitioners to share their knowledge, experience, good practices and challenges with regard to crime prevention and criminal justice. Some Member States made reference to the Criminal Justice Forum for Asia and the Pacific convened by Japan and UNODC in February 2022, which had served as a forum for cooperation among central authorities responsible for mutual legal assistance in criminal matters and competent authorities engaging in offender treatment and rehabilitation in that region.

35. Several Member States took note with appreciation of the first round of the intersessional thematic discussions of the Commission on the implementation of the Kyoto Declaration, held from 10 to 12 November 2021. It was proposed to create an online platform dedicated to the Kyoto Declaration that would cover, inter alia, the progress made in implementing the Kyoto Declaration and the resources shared in the context of the thematic discussions. It was also proposed to go beyond the thematic discussions and invite Member States to provide voluntary periodic reports on the implementation of the recommendations contained in the Kyoto Declaration, for broader dissemination. Another proposal was that UNODC develop a set of general indicators related to the four pillars of the Kyoto Declaration and to design questionnaires on the implementation of the Declaration to be completed periodically by all relevant stakeholders and used by UNODC.

36. It was noted that UNODC played a crucial role in the provision of capacity-building and technical assistance in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice. It was recommended that Member States continue to build partnerships with UNODC in that regard. The importance was underscored of conducting continuous training for competent authorities in related fields, including with regard to mutual legal assistance and judicial ethics.

37. A number of Member States highlighted the importance of mainstreaming a gender perspective in crime prevention and criminal justice strategies.

38. It was noted that one of the most important ways and means of ensuring appropriate follow-up to the Kyoto Declaration was funding to be provided by Member States, in particular those with financial and technical capacities, for activities and programmes aimed at transforming the political commitments set out in the Declaration into projects on the ground, particularly in developing and less developed countries.

IV. Concluding observations

39. In the years to come, the Kyoto Declaration will be the main international political commitment on crime prevention and criminal justice and guide global action in that regard. I urge Member States to take concerted action to advance the implementation of the commitments made in the Kyoto Declaration, including through the Commission as the principal policymaking body of the United Nations in crime-related matters.

40. Considering the successful outcome of the first round of the intersessional thematic discussions and the positive feedback received from relevant stakeholders in that regard, I encourage the Commission to continue in the same vein to foster the exchange of information, good practices and lessons learned among Member States, United Nations system entities, other intergovernmental organizations and civil society, with a view to effectively following up on the Kyoto Declaration.

41. The wide dissemination of the policy commitments contained in the Kyoto Declaration and the sharing of information on the implementation of the Declaration among Member States and other relevant stakeholders are the key to ensuring a comprehensive approach to the follow-up to the Declaration. In that regard, I encourage the Commission to continue to keep all relevant stakeholders informed of the activities implemented in follow-up to the Kyoto Declaration by holding side events, including those taking place at the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council.

42. In the Kyoto Declaration, Member States reaffirmed the role of UNODC as the leading entity of the United Nations supporting Member States in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice. I encourage UNODC in that regard to further strengthen institutional coordination and cooperation, to ensure a comprehensive approach to the follow-up to the Fourteenth Congress, and to continue to implement programmatic activities with a view to supporting Member States in the implementation of the commitments contained in the Kyoto Declaration and to keep Member States informed of the work undertaken in that regard.

43. The early identification of the host country for the Fifteenth Congress offers the Commission an opportunity to engage in consultations facilitating the timely planning and coordination of the relevant preparatory arrangements. I encourage the Commission to conduct further consultations among Member States to identify the host country so as to facilitate the timely planning and coordination of the relevant preparatory arrangements. In the same vein, I urge Member States to provide their suggestions in relation to the overall theme, the agenda items and the topics for the workshops for the Fifteenth Congress.

44. Multilateral cooperation and multi-stakeholder partnership are crucial in advancing crime prevention, criminal justice and the rule of law as part of efforts to achieve the 2030 Agenda. I invite the Commission to continue to engage, in follow-up to the Kyoto Declaration and in preparation for the Fifteenth Congress, with other relevant stakeholders, including intergovernmental organizations, the institutes of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme network, civil society and academia.
