



**Tenth
United Nations Congress
on the Prevention of Crime
and the Treatment of Offenders
Vienna, 10-17 April 2000**

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**Report of the pre-Congress consultations held at the Austria
Center, Vienna, on 9 April 2000**

1. In conformity with the practice followed at United Nations special conferences and General Assembly resolution 53/110 of 9 December 1998, pre-Congress consultations were held on 9 April 2000 at the Austria Center, Vienna. Participation in the consultations was open to representatives of all States invited to the Congress.
2. The matters considered and the recommendations agreed upon in the course of the consultations are set out below.

A. Observation of a minute of silence

3. It is recommended that the Congress observe a minute of silence for the late President of Austria, His Excellency Rudolf Kirchschläger, and the late President of Tunisia, His Excellency Habib Bourghiba.

B. Election of the President of the Congress

4. It is recommended that the Congress elect by acclamation His Excellency Manuel Panella, Minister of Justice of South Africa and head of the delegation of South Africa, as President of the Congress.

C. Election of other officers

5. The General Committee of the Congress will be composed of 28 officers to be elected by the Congress under rule 6 of the provisional rules of procedure, according to the geographical pattern set out below. The Presidency will not be counted for the purpose of regional distribution:

Seven from African States: Algeria, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Egypt, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Morocco and Nigeria;

Six from Asian States: China, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Oman, Pakistan and Philippines;

Three from Eastern European States: Croatia, Poland and Russian Federation;

Five from Latin American and Caribbean States: Cuba, Ecuador, Guatemala, Mexico and Peru;

Six from Western European and other States: Australia, Belgium, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain and Turkey.

6. In the light of announcements made in the course of the pre-Congress consultations and in conformity with rule 6 cited above, it is recommended that (Asian States) and Mr. Berislav Zivkovic (Croatia) should be elected Chairman of Committee I and Chairman of Committee II, respectively; and that (Eastern European States or Western European and other States) should be elected Rapporteur-General.

7. In the light also of the agreement reached between the Chairmen of the regional groups, as endorsed by the informal meeting on the preparations for the Tenth Congress held on 30 March 2000, it is recommended that His Excellency Gustavo Bell Lemus, Vice-President of Colombia, chair the high-level segment of the Congress.

D. Adoption of the rules of procedure

8. It is recommended that the Congress adopt the provisional rules of procedure, as contained in document A/CONF.187/2.

E. Adoption of the agenda

9. It is recommended that the Congress adopt the provisional agenda, as contained in document A/CONF.187/1.

F. Allocation of items

10. It is recommended that items 1, 2, 4 and 7 of the provisional agenda and the high-level segment of the Tenth Congress be allocated to plenary meetings and that items 3, 5 and 6 of the provisional agenda be allocated to Committee I for consideration.

11. It is also recommended that the four workshop topics be allocated to Committee II for consideration.

G. Organization of work

12. It is recommended that the Congress approve the proposed timetable for the Congress, as set out in the annex to document A/CONF.187/1, amended to reflect that there would not be any formal meetings on Sunday, 16 April, on the understanding that any adjustments that might be necessary would be made during the course of the session.

13. It is also recommended that the Congress establish an open-ended working group, to be chaired by Ambassador John Freeman (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland), the principal objective of which is to finalize the draft Vienna Declaration on Crime and Justice: Meeting the Challenges of the Twenty-First Century. The open-ended working group will report to the Plenary of the Congress.

H. Credentials of representatives to the Congress: appointment of members of the Credentials Committee

14. In accordance with rule 4 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Congress, it is recommended that Austria, Bolivia, China, Philippines, Russian Federation, South Africa, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, and United States of America be appointed to the Credentials Committee, on the understanding that any of those States not present would, upon the President's proposal, be replaced by another State from the same regional group.

I. Report of the Congress

15. It is recommended that, in accordance with the practice followed by previous congresses, the report of the Tenth Congress should consist of the Vienna Declaration on Crime and Justice: Meeting the Challenges of the Twenty-First Century, the conclusions and recommendations of the Congress on the various substantive items of its agenda and the outcome of the workshops, the decisions of the Congress, a brief account of the events leading to the convening of the Congress, the proceedings of the Congress, including a summary of the substantive work conducted by the plenary and by the Committees, and a repertorial account of the action taken in plenary meetings.
