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**Twelfth United Nations Congress on Crime  
Prevention and Criminal Justice**  
Salvador, Brazil, 12-19 April 2010**Report of the Western Asian Regional Preparatory Meeting  
for the Twelfth United Nations Congress on Crime  
Prevention and Criminal Justice, held in Doha  
from 1 to 3 June 2009****Contents**

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## **I. Introduction**

1. In its resolution 56/119, on the role, function, periodicity and duration of the United Nations congresses on the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders, the General Assembly decided that each congress should be preceded by regional preparatory meetings; and also decided to call future congresses United Nations congresses on crime prevention and criminal justice.

2. The Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Lessons Learned from United Nations Congresses on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, which had met in Bangkok from 15 to 18 August 2006, stressed the importance of regional preparatory meetings as a key preparatory tool for the congresses and as a conduit to incorporate regional concerns and perspectives into their preparation. The Group noted that despite globalization and the increasingly transboundary nature of criminality, different regions of the world continued to harbour different concerns, which they wanted to see properly reflected in the consideration of various topics by the congresses (E/CN.15/2007/6, para. 23).

3. In its resolution 62/173, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to facilitate the organization of regional preparatory meetings for the Twelfth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice; and also requested him 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.

4. 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 meetings to examine the substantive items on the agenda and the topics of the workshops of the Congress and to make action-oriented recommendations.

5. Also 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 meetings to commence early in 2009, and invited Member States to be actively involved in that process. Following the approval by the 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 (A/CONF.213/PM.1) was prepared and made available to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its eighteenth session, in 2009. The discussion guide was used as the basis for the Commission's deliberations on item 5 of its agenda, entitled "Preparations for the Twelfth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice".

## **II. Conclusions and recommendations**

6. The Western Asian Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Twelfth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice agreed that the action-oriented recommendations presented below, reflecting the Western Asian perspective, should be considered when preparing the draft declaration to be

submitted to the Congress. The Meeting stressed that such recommendations would require concerted action at the subregional, regional and international levels, with a view to strengthening cooperation in respect of criminal justice policies and procedures.

7. Taking into account the knowledge accumulated over the years in crime prevention and criminal justice, especially through national experiences in the Western Asian region and the work of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the Meeting acknowledged that the success of efforts to curb crime in all its forms, especially its most pernicious and sophisticated forms, depended on whether countries had functioning, efficient, effective and humane criminal justice systems in place as part of a broader, holistic and long-term agenda for economic and social development.

8. The Meeting noted that, given the constantly evolving environment, unprecedented changes had occurred in at least three areas: new, sophisticated forms of crime had emerged requiring more effective criminal justice responses; the impact of conventional criminality had dramatically changed to the point that it represented a novel and special challenge for criminal justice and law enforcement authorities; and the spread of modern information and communications technologies, as well as the growing transnationality of related criminal activities, had created a vast range of new opportunities for the commission of crime.

9. The Meeting therefore felt that a new approach was needed to the role of the criminal justice system as a crucial pillar of the rule of law in order to ensure that adequate responses to the needs of all Member States, regardless of level of development, were in place. In that regard, the Meeting acknowledged the need to strengthen the added value of the United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice in terms of the development and application of criminal justice policies, and recommended that those standards and norms be made integral components of a model criminal justice system. Such strengthening was considered important as many of the standards and norms had been developed at different times and in different contexts. Once strengthened, those benchmarks could constitute a coherent corpus of guiding principles that would no longer be the minimum, but rather would be an objective for States with serious institutional problems and a yardstick for States at a more advanced stage in designing and implementing crime prevention and criminal justice policies.

10. The representative of Thailand, the host country of the Eleventh United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, introduced a proposal on the draft United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders and a project based on those draft Rules, called "Enhancing Lives of Female Inmates". The project was an initiative of Princess Bajrakitiyabha of Thailand, who had played a key role in providing support for disadvantaged female inmates in Thailand. Accordingly, the Ministry of Justice of Thailand was named as the implementing agency for the project.

11. It was noted that the project was based on the realization that the applicable international standards on prison regimes, namely the Standard Minimum Rules for

the Treatment of Prisoners,<sup>1</sup> which had been in existence for more than 50 years, might require an updated and supplementary set of rules specifically for women prisoners. It was thus deemed appropriate that the project be promoted and further discussed at the international level.

12. The project emphasized raising awareness for better treatment of women prisoners in line with international human rights standards and norms, which had been increasingly embracing a gender-sensitive approach.

13. The draft Rules were the result of the work of an expert round-table meeting held in Bangkok from 2 to 6 February 2009. That work had been brought to the attention of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its eighteenth session, in 2009. In its resolution 18/1, the Commission requested the Executive Director of UNODC to convene in 2009 an open-ended intergovernmental expert group meeting to develop, consistent with the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners and the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for Non-custodial Measures (the Tokyo Rules) (General Assembly resolution 45/110, annex), supplementary rules specific to the treatment of women in detention and in custodial and non-custodial settings.

14. The Meeting noted with appreciation the initiative of the Government of Thailand and expressed its support with regard to the need for updating and supplementing existing standards and norms on the treatment of prisoners to reflect a gender-sensitive approach and specifically address the special needs of women prisoners.

15. The Meeting commented on ways and means of ensuring appropriate follow-up on the outcomes of United Nations congresses on crime prevention and criminal justice, taking into account the work of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Lessons Learned from United Nations Congresses on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. In that connection, the Meeting agreed that Member States should be able to provide sufficient information either to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice or to subsequent congresses (or to both) on action taken and progress made towards ensuring follow-up on the outcome of each congress.<sup>2</sup> The Meeting recommended that the Twelfth Congress consider the establishment of an appropriate and efficient mechanism to ensure follow-up of the outcomes of the congresses. Given the existing mandate and role of the Commission, such a mechanism could become an integral part of the Commission in order to enhance efficiency and cost-effectiveness. The Meeting further recommended the creation of efficient and reliable means of gathering the information necessary for the follow-up mechanism to perform its functions. It was noted, in that regard, that the experience gained from collecting, by way of a software-based self-assessment checklist, information on national efforts to implement the United Nations Convention against Corruption<sup>3</sup> could be useful for

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<sup>1</sup> *Human Rights: A Compilation of International Instruments*, Volume I (First Part): *Universal Instruments* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.XIV.4 (Vol. I, Part 1)), sect. J, No. 34.

<sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>3</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2349, No. 42146.

developing similarly efficient information-gathering tools to monitor actions to follow up on the outcomes of the congresses. It was generally agreed that each Member State was responsible for tracking national implementation of the recommendations of the congresses and for reporting on progress made.

16. Acknowledging the importance of raising awareness of the outcomes of the congresses as a means of enhancing knowledge about their role and function and generating ideas about thematic areas for consideration at subsequent congresses, the Meeting recommended that the outcomes be disseminated as broadly as possible to ensure that they filtered down to all elements of civil society and throughout local communities.

## **A. Substantive items**

### **1. Children, youth and crime**

17. The Meeting took note of the negative impact of crime on the development of children and youth and emphasized the need for crime prevention and criminal justice reform efforts to take into particular account their special needs. Reference was made to the set of international instruments, standards and norms that had been developed over the years to address challenges and develop policies in the area of juvenile justice.<sup>4</sup> In addition, the importance of the Convention on the Rights of the Child,<sup>5</sup> as an international instrument that had acquired universal adherence, was stressed.

18. The Meeting acknowledged the need to devote attention not only to children in conflict with the law but also to youth and children who were victims or witnesses of crime, especially in cases of domestic violence or organized criminal activities.

19. Recognizing that serious consideration should be given to the nature of punishment of youth and children, the Meeting invited Member States to consider broader application of alternative sanctions to the deprivation of liberty. It was generally felt that criminal justice responses in that area should envisage appropriate rehabilitation of young people and their reintegration into society.

20. Given the importance of taking into account the human rights and special needs of children and youth when designing and implementing criminal justice systems and law enforcement responses to crime committed by them, full legal aid and advice needed to be provided to children and youth at the very early stages of their contact with the relevant authorities.

21. The Meeting recognized the importance of exploring ways and means of prioritizing prevention in that area. Measures to foster the prevention of juvenile

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<sup>4</sup> Including the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Administration of Juvenile Justice (the Beijing Rules) (General Assembly resolution 40/33, annex); the United Nations Guidelines for the Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency (the Riyadh Guidelines) (Assembly resolution 45/112, annex); the United Nations Rules for the Protection of Juveniles Deprived of their Liberty (Assembly resolution 45/113, annex); the Tokyo Rules; the Guidelines for Action on Children in the Criminal Justice System (Economic and Social Council resolution 1997/30, annex); and the Guidelines on Justice in Matters involving Child Victims and Witnesses of Crime (Council resolution 2005/20, annex).

<sup>5</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.

delinquency could be an appropriate investment towards reducing recidivism among young offenders and also a testing ground for effective policies to prevent crime committed by other categories of offenders. Efficient policies addressing the involvement of youth in crime might also have a positive impact on the development of countries with large and expanding populations of young people.

22. In designing effective preventive policies, special attention should be paid to the root causes of the involvement of youth and children in criminal activities, including unemployment, the lack of educational opportunities and the lack of social alternative programmes. Awareness-raising activities and the development of social care programmes comprised another pillar of prevention. The need for reliable data and a system of statistics that enabled the classification of crime according to the age group of the offender was stressed by the Meeting.

23. The Meeting considered that preventive policies in that area required consistent and effective implementation of existing legislation and efficient coordination among competent national agencies, as well as the adoption of a multidisciplinary approach that involved civil society and coordination and effective networking with non-governmental organizations.

## **2. Provision of technical assistance to facilitate the ratification and implementation of the international instruments related to the prevention and suppression of terrorism**

24. The Meeting noted the significance of technical assistance for building the capacity of Member States to deal effectively with the prevention and suppression not only of terrorism but also of other forms of crime, including organized crime, corruption and money-laundering. Recognition of that significance arose from the realization by the development assistance community that the road to effective promotion of the rule of law must include the development of efficient criminal justice systems.

25. The Meeting considered the trend in international criminal law of including in relevant crime instruments specific provisions on the delivery of technical assistance, as in the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime<sup>6</sup> and the Convention against Corruption. Other important factors were examined that needed to be considered for ensuring success and effectiveness in that area, such as the proper ways and means of identifying and communicating technical assistance needs; the necessity of having in place needs assessment processes and mechanisms; what kind of benchmarks and requirements should be in place for evaluating the need for assistance; and whether such benchmarks and requirements were objective and whether they reflected the national priorities, concerns and values of the recipients or of the providers of technical assistance.

26. The Meeting recommended that action be taken to improve national, subregional and regional expertise for tackling terrorism, including its complex aspects, such as the financing of terrorism. It also recommended that different forms of technical assistance, including legal advisory services and hands-on advice on how to enforce legislation and to ensure adequate training of relevant personnel, be

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<sup>6</sup> Ibid., vol. 2225, No. 39574.

fostered in order to address more optimally the links between terrorism and other forms of crime.

27. The Meeting recommended that appropriate consideration be given to ways and means of ensuring the sustainability and long-lasting impact of technical assistance. In that regard, it recommended that further consultations, coordination and cooperation be pursued among the various stakeholders in the area of technical assistance delivery and the recipients of such assistance to ensure that training and other technical assistance activities could build and further improve not only the capabilities of individuals but also the overall capacity of criminal justice systems and their national institutions.

### **3. Making the United Nations guidelines on crime prevention work**

28. Convinced that the security sector played a key role in effective crime prevention, the Meeting acknowledged the role of private sector companies in that area. It was pointed out that the regulation of the functions of such companies was already the subject of research and had been brought to the attention of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. It was noted that, in its resolution 18/2, entitled “Civilian private security services: their role, oversight and contribution to crime prevention and community safety”, the Commission had invited Member States to examine the issue; and decided to establish an ad hoc open-ended intergovernmental expert group to study its parameters. The Meeting recommended that further research and studies be undertaken in that area and agreed that related issues should be discussed in a more detailed and comprehensive manner at the Twelfth Congress, in the light of the experiences that Member States would bring to the attention of the Congress.

29. The Meeting recommended that the international donor community and the United Nations system support developing countries by providing technical assistance to create or strengthen the capacity of those countries’ security sectors to prevent crime, including by improving capacity for effective community policing and similar approaches aimed at building partnerships and trust between the police and communities for the identification, resolution and prevention of crime-related problems with the full participation of local communities.

30. Bearing in mind that one of the basic principles of the Guidelines for the Prevention of Crime is that crime prevention strategies, policies, programmes and actions should be based on a broad, multidisciplinary foundation of knowledge about crime problems (Economic and Social Council resolution 2002/13, annex), the Meeting recommended that Member States give consideration to the implementation of a programme of crime data collection, including the periodic use of crime victim surveys. As a supplement to police crime records, such surveys could assist in providing a fuller picture of the nature and extent of crime victimization and of perceptions of the performance of the criminal justice system.

31. The Meeting recognized that comprehensive, multisector and multidisciplinary approaches could significantly reduce crime and victimization. It thus recommended that the international donor community and the United Nations system support developing countries by providing technical assistance for the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of comprehensive crime prevention strategies and programmes. Such strategies should (a) foster social and economic

inclusion to build the resilience of those at risk of engaging in violent and criminal behaviour; (b) strengthen institutional capacity to prevent crime, in particular in the security and justice sectors; (c) contribute to reducing recidivism by investing in the rehabilitation and social reintegration of offenders; (d) ensure protection and assistance for and, where pertinent, the reintegration into society of victims of crime and violence; and (e) strengthen the capacity of the justice and security sectors to prevent crime, including organized crime in its various modalities.

#### **4. Criminal justice responses to the smuggling of migrants and trafficking in persons, and links to transnational organized crime**

32. In its discussion of the substantive item on criminal justice responses to the smuggling of migrants and trafficking in persons, and links to transnational organized crime, the Meeting took into consideration the efforts of UNODC to promote universal adherence to the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children,<sup>7</sup> and the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air,<sup>8</sup> both supplementing the Organized Crime Convention. It acknowledged that greater effort was needed in that direction, especially with a view to addressing misperceptions in a number of Member States regarding the conceptual and substantive differences between the offences covered by those instruments.

33. The Meeting emphasized the need for the adoption and implementation of effective measures to prevent both trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants, including through awareness-raising campaigns, and to protect victims of trafficking in persons and smuggled migrants and ensure the protection of their rights. Special reference was made to national legislative action in the region and to institutional and operational initiatives to provide specialized training in the identification and proper treatment of victims.

34. The Meeting recommended that Member States be encouraged to fully implement the Organized Crime Convention, and thereby ensure that its provisions were fully utilized in cases of trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants. In particular, serious consideration should be given to its provisions relating to participation in an organized criminal group, money-laundering, corruption, confiscation and seizure of assets, international cooperation in criminal matters, witness protection and victim assistance and protection. The Meeting also recommended that Member States review their legislation with a view to ensuring full compliance with the provisions of the Trafficking in Persons Protocol and the Migrants Protocol.

35. The Meeting recommended that Member States strengthen the skills and capacity of criminal justice agencies responsible for combating trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants with a view to ensuring that those agencies have the skills to detect in a proactive way organized criminal activities and take appropriate measures to combat them. Criminal justice agencies should also have capacity to identify victims of trafficking in persons and ensure that the rights of those victims and of smuggled migrants are protected.

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<sup>7</sup> Ibid., vol. 2237, No. 39574.

<sup>8</sup> Ibid., vol. 2241, No. 39574.



36. The Meeting also recommended that data from law enforcement and criminal justice systems be made available in order to gain a better understanding both of the complex links existing among trafficking in persons, smuggling of migrants and other forms of organized crime and of the appropriate criminal justice system responses to such crime. It was recommended that Member States gather more comprehensive and precise national information on the state of trafficking in persons and engage in regional and international initiatives to collect data on trafficking in persons and the smuggling of migrants.

## **5. International cooperation to address money-laundering based on relevant United Nations and other instruments**

37. The Meeting noted that an increasing number of international instruments called on States parties to afford one another, through international cooperation, the widest measure of assistance in investigations, prosecutions and judicial proceedings related to money-laundering. It also considered the links between money-laundering, on the one hand, and transnational organized crime and corruption, on the other, which had been emphasized by the incorporation of specific provisions on money-laundering in the two international conventions dealing with those forms of crime.

38. With regard to overcoming obstacles to international cooperation in the investigation and prosecution of money-laundering cases, the Meeting was of the view that enhanced mechanisms for mutual legal assistance and exchange of information should be in place.

39. The Meeting acknowledged the need for improved capacity of competent national authorities involved in the countering of money-laundering and financing of terrorism to exchange information, especially at the operational level. In that connection, it recognized the practical usefulness of mechanisms such as the Egmont Group of Financial Intelligence Units, the regional bodies modelled on the Financial Action Task Force on Money Laundering and other financial regional task groups.

40. The Meeting recommended that Member States be encouraged to fully implement the money-laundering provisions of the Organized Crime Convention and the Convention against Corruption with a view to including in their national legislation the widest possible range of criminal offences as predicate offences to money-laundering.

41. The Meeting recommended that Member States promote ways for competent key players to exchange operational information and thus facilitate the investigation and prosecution of money-laundering cases and the forfeiture of related criminal proceeds.

42. The Meeting also recommended that Member States consider enhancing the coordination of all mechanisms assessing the implementation of money-laundering standards to facilitate data collection and analysis at the global level.

**6. Recent developments in the use of science and technology by offenders and by competent authorities in fighting crime, including the case of cybercrime**

43. The Meeting noted that the proliferation of information and communications technologies and the widespread use of the Internet had opened vast opportunities for criminals and had given rise to an increase in forms of cybercrime. That, in turn, had led to the emergence of serious challenges for both national legislators and law enforcement authorities. The inherent transnationality of cybercrime offences, in particular, was seen as a significant problem that required enhanced cooperation among counterparts in different countries, as well as the establishment of flexible jurisdictional regimes to allow for the detection, investigation and adjudication of related crime.

44. The Meeting emphasized that the abuse of the Internet for criminal purposes, including acts of terrorism, represented a serious threat, especially in cases of acts targeting critical infrastructure systems. In that connection, the Meeting expressed its support for international and regional counter-terrorism efforts aimed at gaining a better understanding of that threat and accordingly developing appropriate responses to it.

45. The Meeting considered the rapid increase in particularly heinous crimes committed using the Internet, such as sexual exploitation of children and child pornography, and in novel and sophisticated forms of identity-related crime committed online. In that context, the Meeting stressed the importance of galvanizing areas of synergy, in both prevention and repression, between national authorities and other stakeholders, including private sector entities, to better counter the threats posed by cybercrime offences.

46. The Meeting recognized that the use of modern technologies could drastically improve the capacity of competent national authorities to detect, investigate and prosecute cybercrime, including through the development of new forensic technologies and the improvement of existing identification methods. It therefore recommended that technical assistance and training be provided to developing countries for purposes of building capacity and enhancing specialized expertise to deal with cybercrime.

47. The Meeting recommended that the development of an international convention on cybercrime be considered, as that would foster international cooperation in the area and promote the priority of putting into place efficient national legislation and building the skills of law enforcement personnel to address effectively the complex issues of cybercrime investigations, especially those of a cross-border nature.

**7. Practical approaches to strengthening international cooperation in fighting crime-related problems**

48. The Meeting recognized that international cooperation in criminal matters was a cornerstone of the efforts to prevent and combat crime, particularly in its transnational forms. It was noted that the adoption of United Nations model instruments on different modalities of international cooperation, including extradition, mutual legal assistance, transfer of criminal proceedings and transfer of

foreign prisoners, as well as the incorporation of pertinent and very detailed provisions in international legal instruments<sup>9</sup> had contributed to streamlining the efficiency of cooperation mechanisms and making tangible and significant progress in the development of the overall body of international law and practice in that area.

49. The Meeting took note of regional developments and initiatives geared towards accelerating international cooperation, including the departure from traditional principles and requirements that delayed the provision of requested assistance, such as the double criminality principle.

50. The Meeting recommended that appropriate mechanisms be in place to facilitate the exchange of relevant information and best practices among Member States. In particular, further measures should be taken to enhance cooperation in tracing, freezing and confiscating proceeds of crime in order to deprive criminals of their profits.

51. The Meeting recommended that efforts be made to ensure not only the efficiency of international cooperation mechanisms but also the full protection of the rights of persons involved in such proceedings. Particular attention should be devoted to ensuring the clarity and preciseness of international cooperation requests to avoid delays, fragmentation in relevant communications between competent national authorities and costly proceedings. In that connection, improving the skills of the relevant practitioners through appropriate training was identified as a matter of high priority.

#### **8. Crime prevention and criminal justice responses to violence against migrants, migrant workers and their families**

52. The Meeting expressed concern about the particular vulnerability of migrants and their families to acts of violence, including criminal activities associated with the smuggling of migrants. It was acknowledged that the Migrants Protocol included a series of provisions aimed at ensuring the humane treatment of smuggled migrants, the full protection of their rights and the prevention of the worst forms of exploitation of smuggled migrants. Therefore, the Meeting recommended that further action be taken in the region by Member States not yet parties to the Migrants Protocol towards ratifying, or acceding to, the Protocol to bring their national legal systems into full alignment with the standards and requirements enshrined in that instrument.

53. The Meeting identified the need for collecting adequate and accurate data on the particular problems that migrants and their families faced as victims of crime in the countries where they had chosen to live temporarily or permanently, especially problems associated with their isolation from law enforcement and criminal justice systems.

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<sup>9</sup> See, for example, the relevant provisions of the Organized Crime Convention and the Convention against Corruption. Moreover, the conventions and protocols on the suppression of terrorism embody principles that have signalled the adoption of practical approaches towards decreasing the impact of traditional impediments to cooperation (the *aut dedere aut judicare* principle).

54. The Meeting recommended that priority be accorded to identifying good practices in the design of crime prevention and criminal justice responses to the problems posed by violence against migrants and their families.

## **B. Workshops**

### **Workshop 1. International criminal justice education for the rule of law**

55. The Meeting recognized that, in order to measure and effectively evaluate the impact of United Nations assistance in the area of the rule of law, it was necessary to improve knowledge and understanding of the development of the rule of law, including through promoting applied research and international criminal justice education in that area.

56. In that connection, the Meeting acknowledged that the application by national legal systems of the United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice had contributed to the strengthening of the notion of the rule of law. It therefore recommended that international criminal justice education for the rule of law include educational and training components on those standards and norms. That would complement the recommendation of the Meeting to pursue the upgrading of the standards and norms with a view to making them integral components of a model criminal justice system.

57. The Meeting stressed the importance of promoting teaching and training initiatives not only at universities and within the context of specialized training for criminal justice officials or practitioners but also at primary schools, with a view to instilling into broader parts of the population a culture of lawfulness.

58. The Meeting recognized the contribution of the Naif Arab University for Security Sciences to promoting research in related matters in the region. It was agreed that more concerted efforts in research, education and training could be made to facilitate awareness-raising about the threats posed by certain forms of crime, such as drug-related offences.

59. The Meeting welcomed the joint efforts of UNODC, the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) and the Government of Austria to establish in Vienna an international anti-corruption academy that would provide educational and training courses on anti-corruption issues to a broad range of constituencies. The Meeting also welcomed the ongoing collaborative efforts of the Government of Qatar and UNODC to explore possibilities for creating criminal justice education opportunities in the region, inspired by the model of the international anti-corruption academy.

60. The Meeting recommended that Member States review their international criminal justice education programmes in the light of the United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice with a view to including the content of those standards and norms in courses on the rule of law.

61. The Meeting also recommended that Member States and UNODC strengthen their cooperation in developing global and local public education initiatives in the area of crime prevention and criminal justice with a view to addressing youth at

risk, victims of crime and former offenders through technical assistance projects at schools and in local communities.

62. The Meeting further recommended that UNODC take steps towards providing specialized knowledge and advice on the United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice to law and criminal justice schools, academies and training institutions.

### **Workshop 2. Survey of United Nations and other best practices in the treatment of prisoners in the criminal justice system**

63. The Meeting took note of the international standards and norms in the treatment of prisoners and the management of penal institutions. The Meeting also considered several measures and initiatives undertaken in countries of the region to improve their penitentiary systems, such as education and vocational training for inmates, health and psychological care services for inmates, the development of post-release programmes with a view to facilitating inmates' reintegration into society and individualized treatment for particular categories of prisoners, such as foreign nationals, the mentally ill and drug addicts.

64. The Meeting agreed that regular inspections of correctional facilities by competent authorities or institutions could guarantee the security of inmates and effectively contribute to ensuring compliance with the standards and norms related to the treatment of prisoners.

65. Recognizing that women inmates had specific needs that were not usually addressed by prison management structures, the Meeting reiterated its support for the proposal of the Government of Thailand with regard to the draft United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders (see paras. 10-14 above).

### **Workshop 3. Practical approaches to preventing urban crime**

66. The Meeting considered the impact of urban crime on life in cities. It was noted that urban crime affected some groups much more than others and various groups were particularly vulnerable to victimization, such as ethnic minorities, migrant communities and women. Particularly with regard to internal migration and immigration to cities, it was stressed that efforts should focus on the development of civil intercultural programmes aimed at facilitating the integration of migrants into the urban setting. A relevant initiative undertaken by the Council of Europe was mentioned.

67. The Meeting welcomed the recommendation of the Latin American and Caribbean Regional Preparatory Meeting, held in San José from 25 to 27 May 2009, that this workshop also address the issue of violence against women as a specific aspect of urban crime.

### **Workshop 4. International coordinated response to links between drug trafficking and other forms of organized crime**

68. The Meeting acknowledged the growing links between drug trafficking and other forms of organized crime, including trafficking in firearms, attributing the phenomenon to the lucrative nature of drug-related criminal activities. In that

connection, the Meeting highlighted the importance of identifying, disseminating and promoting national, regional and international good practices in addressing effectively the impact of the association of drug trafficking with other forms of organized crime.

69. The Meeting recommended that emphasis be placed on strengthening international cooperation mechanisms, including extradition, mutual legal assistance and the exchange of information, to combat drug trafficking and its links to other associated forms of organized crime. In that context, it encouraged the use of the pertinent provisions of the Organized Crime Convention and the Convention against Corruption as a legal basis for such cooperation.

70. The Meeting also recommended that further action be taken to promote training and capacity-building for legislators, policymakers, members of the judiciary and law enforcement authorities with a view to enhancing specialized skills in preventing, combating, investigating and prosecuting related offences.

#### **Workshop 5. Strategies and best practices against overcrowding in correctional facilities**

71. The Meeting discussed the problems associated with overcrowding in the region's prisons and other correctional facilities. It was noted that such problems were linked to criminal justice policies that relied heavily on incarceration and long-term sentences. Particularly with regard to pretrial proceedings, the Meeting recalled the Tokyo Rules and recommended that pretrial detention should be used as a means of last resort in criminal proceedings, with due regard for the investigation of the alleged offence and for the protection of society and the victim (rule 6.1).

72. Bearing that in mind, the Meeting stressed the importance of alternative measures for reducing the size of prison populations, including the use of alternatives to imprisonment; non-custodial measures; shorter prison sentences; early release for health reasons; parole, pardon and amnesty; the reduction of sentences on the occasion of major religious holidays or important family celebrations; diversionary measures such as house arrest or release on bail; early release measures involving surveillance through electronic means; restorative justice programmes; and the identification of effective programmes for the prevention of recidivism.

73. The Meeting considered the special challenges posed by the fact that in recent years foreign nationals had tended to account for a large portion of the prison population in many countries, including in the region, and referred to the advantages of a regional scheme for the transfer of foreign prisoners. The Meeting recommended that such transfers be further encouraged in the future and based on the standards contained in the relevant United Nations model agreement.

### **C. Other issues**

74. Speakers from Brazil, the host country of the Twelfth Congress, made presentations on the substantive and administrative arrangements under way in that country and on the state of progress of all actions required for the timely and efficient preparations for the Congress.

75. The observer for the International Scientific and Professional Advisory Council delivered a presentation on the arrangements to be made, and the facilities to be available, for the organization of the ancillary meetings during the Twelfth Congress.

### **III. Attendance and organization of work**

#### **A. Date and venue of the Meeting**

76. The Western Asian Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Twelfth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice was held in Doha from 1 to 3 June 2009.

#### **B. Attendance**

77. The following member States of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia were represented at the Meeting: Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates and Yemen.

78. Brazil and Thailand were represented by observers at the Meeting.

79. Palestine, an entity maintaining a permanent observer mission to the United Nations, was represented.

80. UNODC, a United Nations entity, was represented by an observer.

81. The following institutes of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme network were represented by observers: United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute and International Scientific and Professional Advisory Council.

82. The following non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council were represented by observers: International Corrections and Prisons Association and Penal Reform International.

#### **C. Opening of the Meeting**

83. The Western Asian Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Twelfth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice was opened on 1 June 2009 by a representative of UNODC. The speaker noted that the importance of carefully structuring at the regional level the preparations for the Twelfth Congress stemmed from the political significance and importance of the Congress in the area of international standard-setting and policymaking in crime prevention and criminal justice. The Twelfth Congress would mark the fifty-fifth anniversary of the holding of United Nations congresses on crime prevention and criminal justice and could serve as a platform for setting in motion a process towards firmly establishing the central role of the criminal justice system in the rule of law and development. Such a focus could be conducive to establishing the criminal justice system as a central pillar in the rule of law architecture and to developing, to that effect, a coherent

corpus of guiding principles of a model criminal justice system, based on the United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice.

84. The provisional agenda of the Meeting was introduced by a representative of UNODC, who stated that it reflected the provisional agenda of the Twelfth Congress as approved by the General Assembly in its resolution 63/193 (A/CONF.213/RPM.2/L.1).

85. The representative of UNODC stated that the comprehensive nature of the agenda of the Meeting was in line with the overall theme of the Twelfth Congress, “Comprehensive strategies for global challenges: crime prevention and criminal justice systems and their development in a changing world”. In that regard, two options were available for the discussion of agenda items 4 and 5. The first was to examine each of the thematic areas separately. The second was to group the substantive items into clusters for joint consideration in order to make the best use of the limited time available to the Meeting. The Latin American and Caribbean Regional Preparatory Meeting had adopted the second option and organized its discussion as follows:

(a) Substantive item 1 (“Children, youth and crime”) was discussed together with substantive item 3 (“Making the United Nations guidelines on crime prevention work”);

(b) Substantive item 2 (“Provision of technical assistance to facilitate the ratification and implementation of the international instruments related to the prevention and suppression of terrorism”) was discussed together with substantive item 5 (“International cooperation to address money-laundering based on relevant United Nations and other instruments”) and substantive item 7 (“Practical approaches to strengthening international cooperation in fighting crime-related problems”);

(c) Substantive item 6 (“Recent developments in the use of science and technology by offenders and by competent authorities in fighting crime, including the case of cybercrime”);

(d) Substantive item 4 (“Criminal justice responses to the smuggling of migrants and trafficking in persons, and links to transnational organized crime”) was discussed together with substantive item 8 (“Crime prevention and criminal justice responses to violence against migrants, migrant workers and their families”).

86. At that meeting, it had also been proposed to address simultaneously the discussion on workshop 2 (“Survey of United Nations and other best practices in the treatment of prisoners in the criminal justice system”) and workshop 5 (“Strategies and best practices against overcrowding in correctional facilities”).

87. The Meeting decided to adopt the second option for its deliberations.

#### **D. Election of officers**

88. At its 1st meeting, on 1 June 2009, the Meeting elected, by acclamation, the following officers:

*Chairman:* Khalifa al-Abdullah (Qatar)



*Vice-Chairman:* Kheder Aeid al-Zahrani (Saudi Arabia)

*Rapporteur:* Rana Ajwa (Jordan)

## **E. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work**

89. Also at its 1st meeting, the Meeting adopted its provisional agenda (A/CONF.213/RPM.2/L.1), which read as follows:

1. Opening of the Meeting.
2. Election of officers.
3. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
4. Substantive items on the agenda of the Twelfth Congress:
  - (a) Children, youth and crime;
  - (b) Provision of technical assistance to facilitate the ratification and implementation of the international instruments related to the prevention and suppression of terrorism;
  - (c) Making the United Nations guidelines on crime prevention work;
  - (d) Criminal justice responses to the smuggling of migrants and trafficking in persons, and links to transnational organized crime;
  - (e) International cooperation to address money-laundering based on relevant United Nations and other instruments;
  - (f) Recent developments in the use of science and technology by offenders and by competent authorities in fighting crime, including the case of cybercrime;
  - (g) Practical approaches to strengthening international cooperation in fighting crime-related problems;
  - (h) Crime prevention and criminal justice responses to violence against migrants, migrant workers and their families.
5. Topics to be considered by workshops 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) International coordinated response to links between drug trafficking and other forms of organized crime;
  - (e) Strategies and best practices against overcrowding in correctional facilities.
6. Recommendations for the draft declaration of the Twelfth Congress.

7. Adoption of the report of the Meeting.
90. At the same meeting, the Meeting approved its organization of work.

#### **IV. Proceedings of the Meeting**

91. Statements were made by the representatives of Jordan, Oman, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.
92. Statements were made by the observers for Brazil and Thailand.
93. Statements were also made by the observers for the following institutes of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme network: United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute and International Scientific and Professional Advisory Council.
94. A statement was also made by the observer for Penal Reform International.

#### **V. Adoption of the report and closure of the Meeting**

95. At its 6th meeting, on 3 June 2009, the Meeting considered and adopted its report (A/CONF.213/RPM.2/L.2), as orally amended.

## Annex I

### List of participants

#### Member States of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

Iraq	Shihab Alzoubaee
Jordan	Rana Ajwa
Kuwait	Jehad Alhai
Oman	Faisal Omar Said al-Marhoon
	Yussuf Abdullah al-Afifi
Qatar	Khalifa Suleiman al-Abdulla
	Hassan Abdulla al-Dosari
	Fras S. Ahmed
Saudi Arabia	Khadar ben Ayed al-Zaharani
	Abdel Aziz ben Abdallah al-Uleyan
	Abdel Aziz ben Ahmed al-Beder
	Khaled bin Faraj al-Harbi
	Salih bin Faihan al-Otaibi
United Arab Emirates	Sultan Ibrahim al-Juwaied
	Mahmoud Jasim Yousif
	Rashid Mohammed Burasheed
	Hamad Rashid al-Zaabi
Yemen	Fikri Taleb al-Sakaf

#### States Members of the United Nations represented by observers

Brazil	Sylvio Rômulo Guimarães de Andrade
	Renato Halfen da Porciúncula
	Rochelle Pastana Ribeiro
	Sonja Valle Pio Correa
Thailand	Vitaya Suriyawong
	Nantarath Thepdolchai
	Vongthep Arthakaivalvatee
	Valeerant Puntuworn

**Entities represented by observers**

Palestine                      Qasem Saleh Radwan

**United Nations Secretariat**

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

**Institutes of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice  
Programme network**

International Scientific and Professional Advisory Council, United Nations  
Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute

**Non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and  
Social Council**

International Corrections and Prisons Association for the Advancement of  
Professional Corrections, Penal Reform International

## Annex II

### List of documents

A/CONF.213/PM.1	Discussion guide
A/CONF.213/RPM.2/L.1	Provisional agenda and proposed organization of work
A/CONF.213/RPM.2/L.2	Draft report

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