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**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**

**Follow-up to the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on
Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and preparations
for the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime
Prevention and Criminal Justice****Report of the Secretary-General*****Summary*

The present report is submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution [74/171](#), as well as General Assembly decisions 74/550 A and 74/550 B. It provides a brief overview of the work of United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in the follow-up to the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and it includes information on the preparations that were taken for the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.

* [E/CN.15/2021/1](#).

** The present note was submitted after the date required by the 10-week rule because of the dates of the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, which was held from 7 to 12 March 2021.



I. Introduction

1. The present report has been submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution [74/171](#), entitled “Follow-up to the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and preparations for the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice”, as well as Assembly decisions 74/550 A and 74/550 B. In its decision 550 B, the Assembly requested the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice to give high priority at its thirtieth session to considering the declaration of the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, with a view to recommending, through the Economic and Social Council, appropriate follow-up by the Assembly at its seventy-sixth session. Also in that decision, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to ensure proper follow-up to its resolution [74/171](#) and its decision 74/550 B and to report thereon to the Assembly through the Commission.

II. Follow-up to the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

2. In ensuring appropriate follow-up to the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) continued its work under the Global Programme for the Implementation of the Doha Declaration: Towards the Promotion of a Culture of Lawfulness. The activities under the Global Programme directly support the operational, legislative and policy-related work required by Member States to make progress towards and successfully achieve the goals and targets contained in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

3. The Global Programme comprises four specific, interrelated components: (a) strengthening judicial integrity and preventing corruption in justice systems; (b) fostering prisoners’ rehabilitation and social integration; (c) preventing youth crime through sports; and (d) the Education for Justice initiative.

4. In relation to ensuring that the criminal justice system meets its multiple accountability responsibilities, a series of webinars was organized under the judicial integrity component on areas that constitute new challenges for judges and jurisdictions worldwide and on the effects of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) on access to justice. The webinars covered topics such as judicial independence and organized crime, artificial intelligence in the administration of justice and how to train judges during a pandemic.

5. Under the prisoner rehabilitation component, several prison administrations were supported in the procurement of hygiene and sanitary supplies and additional related items in response to local needs, assessed with national authorities, to prevent the spread of the virus and help protect both prisoners and staff working in prisons.

6. To mark the International Day of Sports for Development and Peace in 2020, under the component on preventing youth crime through sports, a “sports challenge” social media campaign was launched in Uzbekistan that was focused on utilizing sport as a tool for remaining focused, positive and united. The challenge obtained high-level support from the Prime Minister and was covered by major national TV channels and involved over 8,000 participants.

7. Since its inception, more than 2.5 million people from over 190 countries have benefited from the work of the Global Programme. This figure includes over 107,000 stakeholders who have benefited from capacity-building activities and over 2.3 million people reached through post-activity impact, including over 1.4 million students. Most of that impact is a result of the use of nearly 200 tools and resources, including university-level modules, games, handbooks, manuals, podcasts and other pedagogical resources. To ensure multilingualism, the tools and resources have been translated into 15 languages. Overall, 84 countries have received direct technical

assistance, including capacity-building that focuses on the needs identified by beneficiary countries. The Global Programme has influenced policymaking, as demonstrated through the 260 references to the Programme and to the Doha Declaration on Integrating Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice into the Wider United Nations Agenda to Address Social and Economic Challenges and to Promote the Rule of Law at the National and International Levels, and Public Participation, in official United Nations documents.

8. The Global Programme's public information and awareness-raising approach utilized various media to reach audiences around the world. The Programme's website has had 28.8 million views and its social media accounts have had over 14.9 million impressions. Almost 190 videos and podcasts have disseminated the voices of beneficiaries and have been viewed or listened to more than 960,000 times. Overall, there have been some 1,040 media mentions of the Global Programme in 79 countries worldwide.

9. To adapt to the challenging global environment during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Global Programme has pursued several initiatives to reach beneficiaries in innovative ways. In India, the Education for Justice initiative launched "The lockdown learners", a series of interactive dialogues on promoting the Sustainable Development Goals and youth action with students and educators in Delhi and Mumbai, India, utilizing various means of communication, such as WhatsApp, emails and online meetings. Educational materials were disseminated to 598 schools. In Lebanon, Education for Justice provided "The Zorbs" educational kits to 700 children in two orphanages, featuring a Zorbs storybook in Arabic and educational materials on hygiene practices and COVID-19 preventive measures. At the tertiary education level, Education for Justice has recently launched a grants programme that will assist four institutions in Brazil, Hungary, South Africa and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to strengthen academics' capacity to teach about the rule of law. In December 2020, Education for Justice hosted the Global Dialogue Series. The event consisted of online discussions on educational topics relating to the rule of law and on the role of youth, schools and higher education institutions in contributing to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. The series involved over 30 online webinars in various languages. Over 2,100 participants attended the event, which was organized in cooperation with several Education for Justice partners, such as the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the Ban Ki-moon Centre for Global Citizens. In recognition of the efforts undertaken by the Education for Justice initiative, in March 2021, it was awarded the 2020 Secretary-General's Award under the category of "Innovation", which is testimony to the innovative undertakings of the initiative.

10. The Global Programme's programmatic experience presents a link between the Thirteenth and Fourteenth congresses. In transitioning from Doha to Kyoto and beyond, UNODC is in a unique position to continue to apply its expertise in supporting Member States and all relevant stakeholders with the comprehensive and innovative translation of policy commitments into operational action. In partnership with stakeholders, the Global Programme has opened new horizons on how the political outcomes of the quinquennial crime congresses can be instrumental for crime prevention and criminal justice professionals around the world. In the political declaration of the Fourteenth Crime Congress, the Kyoto Declaration on Advancing Crime Prevention, Criminal Justice and the Rule of Law: Towards the Achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the work of the Global Programme was referred to as a good practice in terms of international cooperation.

III. Preparations for the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

A. Venue and dates of the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

11. In its resolution [73/184](#), the General Assembly decided to hold the Fourteenth Congress in Kyoto, Japan, from 20 to 27 April 2020, with pre-Congress consultations to be held on 19 April 2020. In the same resolution, the Assembly decided that the high-level segment of the Fourteenth Congress would be held during the first two days of the Congress in order to allow Heads of State or Government and government ministers to focus on the main theme of the Congress and to enhance the possibility of generating useful feedback.

12. Noting with concern the situation concerning the coronavirus disease (COVID-19), the General Assembly agreed, in its decision 74/550 A of 13 April 2020, to postpone the holding of the Fourteenth Congress until further notice and to consider new dates in due course. In its decision, 74/550 B of 12 August 2020, the Assembly decided to hold the Fourteenth Congress in Kyoto from 7 to 12 March 2021, with pre-Congress consultations to be held on 6 March 2021.

13. The Fourteenth Congress endorsed the organizational arrangements arising from COVID-19 contained in conference room paper A/CONF.234/CRP.2, on the basis that they would not constitute a precedent for future congresses. The arrangements for the Fourteenth Congress combined in-person participation at the Kyoto International Conference Center with a large online presence, with participants worldwide attending by means of the interactive online event platform. The Government of Japan and the United Nations jointly developed a COVID-19 prevention concept, information on which was disseminated during the registration process, made available on the Congress website and brought to the participants' attention during the Congress.

B. Documentation

14. In its resolution [74/171](#), the General Assembly took note with appreciation of the discussion guide¹ prepared by the Secretary-General, in cooperation with the institutes of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme network, for the regional preparatory meetings and for the Fourteenth Congress. In the same resolution, the Assembly welcomed the regional preparatory meetings, which had been held in all five regions and at which the overall theme of the Fourteenth Congress had been examined, together with the substantive items on the agenda and the workshop topics. Also in the same resolution, the Assembly took note of the outcomes of the regional preparatory meetings,² which were to be taken into account during the preparations for and the deliberations of the Congress.

15. Also in its resolution [74/171](#), the General Assembly welcomed the plan for the documentation for the Fourteenth Congress, which had been prepared in consultation with the extended Bureau of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, and the appointment of a Secretary-General and an Executive Secretary of the Fourteenth Congress, who were to perform their functions under the rules of procedure for United Nations congresses on crime prevention and criminal justice. In the same resolution, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to prepare an overview of the state of crime and criminal justice worldwide for presentation at the Fourteenth Congress.

¹ [A/CONF.234/PM.1](#).

² [A/CONF.234/RPM.1/1](#), [A/CONF.234/RPM.2/1](#), [A/CONF.234/RPM.3/1](#), [A/CONF.234/RPM.4/1](#) and [A/CONF.234/RPM.5/1](#).

16. Pursuant to that request, the report of the Secretary-General on the state of crime and criminal justice worldwide³ was prepared and made available on the website of the Fourteenth United Nations Crime Congress,⁴ together with the working papers and background papers for each of the substantive agenda items and workshop topics.⁵

17. In addition, the Secretariat prepared a document entitled “Developments regarding crime prevention and criminal justice as a result of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic”,⁶ with a view to sharing knowledge on developments in the area of crime prevention and criminal justice as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and updating the information contained in the other working papers and background papers that had been issued in early 2020.

C. Rules of procedure

18. Rule 63 of the rules of procedure for United Nations congresses on crime prevention and criminal justice 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.

19. At its twenty-eighth session, the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice reviewed the current rules of procedure.⁷ In the absence of any amendments, the Fourteenth Congress was conducted in accordance with the current rules of procedure, which were adopted by the Fourteenth Congress under item 2 (b) of its agenda, supplemented by the guidelines contained in paragraph 2 of General Assembly resolution 56/119.

20. The Fourteenth Congress agreed to interpret its rules of procedure, bearing in mind the specific circumstances, with a view to allowing for practical solutions to the challenges arising from a hybrid meeting, without setting a precedent for future congresses.

D. Outcome of the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

21. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 56/119, each United Nations congress on crime prevention and criminal justice is to adopt a single declaration and, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 73/184, the Fourteenth Congress was to adopt a single declaration, to be submitted to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice for its consideration.

22. Moreover, in its resolution 74/171, the General Assembly requested the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice to begin to prepare, at intersessional meetings to be held well in advance of the Fourteenth Congress, a structured, short and concise draft declaration with a robust overarching political message addressing the main topics to be discussed at the Congress, taking into account the outcomes of the regional preparatory meetings, consultations with relevant organizations and entities and the relevant discussions held in preparation for the Congress, as well as the mandate and objectives of the United Nations congresses on crime prevention and criminal justice. The Assembly also encouraged

³ [A/CONF.234/3](#).

⁴ www.unodc.org/congress/en/documentation.html.

⁵ [A/CONF.234/4](#), [A/CONF.234/5](#), [A/CONF.234/6](#), [A/CONF.234/7](#), [A/CONF.234/8](#), [A/CONF.234/9](#), [A/CONF.234/10](#), [A/CONF.234/11](#) and [A/CONF.234/12](#).

⁶ [A/CONF.234/15](#).

⁷ [E/CN.15/2019/12](#).

Member States to finalize their negotiation of the Kyoto declaration in a timely manner prior to the commencement of the Fourteenth Congress.

23. In preparation for the negotiations on the draft declaration of the Congress, the Commission, at its twenty-eighth session in May 2019, considered the reports stemming from the regional preparatory meetings. In September 2019, UNODC supported Japan in the organization of a governmental expert group meeting in Kyoto, during which the outcomes of the regional preparatory meetings were grouped thematically and examined in a comprehensive manner. Following that meeting, the Commission held an intersessional meeting, during which the Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations in Vienna was entrusted with chairing the informal consultations on the declaration. Beginning in October 2019, 11 rounds of informal consultations on the draft political declaration took place under the auspices of the Commission, with six months of break owing to the COVID-19 pandemic and the postponement of the Congress. The draft political declaration was finalized on 17 February 2021.

24. The draft declaration was translated into all the official languages of the United Nations and adopted at the beginning of the high-level segment of the Congress, on 7 March 2021. The Kyoto Declaration on Advancing Crime Prevention, Criminal Justice and the Rule of Law: Towards the Achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development will be submitted to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice for consideration at its thirtieth session.

E. Other substantive and procedural preparatory arrangements for the Fourteenth Congress

25. UNODC and the Permanent Mission of Japan organized an event on the margins of the integration segment of the 2019 session of the Economic and Social Council, which was focused on the importance of strengthening international cooperation. During the event, speakers focused on how the discussions at the Fourteenth Congress could contribute to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda.⁸ UNODC and the Permanent Mission of Japan also organized briefings in New York in October 2019 and in February 2020, during the seventy-fourth session of the General Assembly, with a view to updating Member States, United Nations entities and international and non-governmental organizations based in New York on the status of preparations for the Fourteenth Congress.⁹

26. Online briefings on the status of preparations for the Fourteenth Congress were organized by UNODC for permanent missions, non-governmental organizations, individual experts and institutes of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme network, including during the intersessional meetings of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.

27. Further to the planning mission held in January 2020, the Secretariat, with the support of the host country, Japan, carried out an additional planning mission in January 2021, in order to ensure continued preparations for the Congress, including with a view to finalizing the COVID-19 prevention concept.

⁸ United Nations Web TV, “On the road to Kyoto 2020: advancing crime prevention, criminal justice and the rule of law towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda”, 8 July 2019.

⁹ UNODC, “Preparations for the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice”, briefing, 6 February 2020.

IV. Conclusions and recommendations, including action required of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

28. The Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice may wish to consider and review the follow-up given to the Thirteenth Congress through the ongoing Global Programme for the Implementation of the Doha Declaration. It may also wish to advise UNODC on ways in which it could continue to share its substantive expertise with Member States and provide them with technical assistance, including in support of the implementation of the outcomes of United Nations congresses on crime prevention and criminal justice.

29. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution [74/171](#) and Assembly decisions 74/550 A and 74/550 B, the Commission may wish to give high priority at its thirtieth session to considering the declaration of the Fourteenth Congress, with a view to recommending, through the Economic and Social Council, appropriate follow-up by the Assembly at its seventy-sixth session.
