



# Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

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Kyoto, 7–12 March 2021

## Report of the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

Kyoto, 7–12 March 2021

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## Chapter I

### Resolutions adopted by the Congress

1. The Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice adopted the following resolutions:

#### Resolution 1

#### **Kyoto Declaration on Advancing Crime Prevention, Criminal Justice and the Rule of Law: Towards the Achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**

*We, Heads of State and Government, Ministers and Representatives of Member States,*

*Assembled* at the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in Kyoto, Japan, from 7 to 12 March 2021, half a century after the Fourth Congress, held in Kyoto in 1970, at which the international community vowed to coordinate and intensify crime prevention efforts within the context of social and economic development,

*Taking stock* of the 65-year legacy of the United Nations congresses on crime prevention and criminal justice, their continuing significant role as the largest and most diverse international forums in the area of crime prevention and criminal justice and their achievements in advancing discussions on policy and professional practices and commitments by the international community,

*Recalling* 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,<sup>1</sup> adopted by the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, in which we reaffirmed the need to integrate crime prevention and criminal justice issues into the wider agenda of the United Nations in order to enhance system-wide coordination,

*Recognizing* the need to build upon the progress made since the Thirteenth Congress, including the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development<sup>2</sup> and the achievement thereof so far, and the challenges to overcome,

*Declare* the following:

1. We express deep concern about the negative impact of crime on the rule of law, human rights, socioeconomic development, public health and security, the environment and cultural heritage;

2. We also express deep concern that crime is becoming increasingly transnational, organized and complex and that criminals are increasingly exploiting new and emerging technologies, including the Internet, to carry out their illicit activities, thus creating unprecedented challenges in preventing and combating existing crimes, as well as new and emerging forms of crime;

3. We undertake to contribute to achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development through our efforts in crime prevention and criminal justice, with the firm recognition that sustainable development and the rule of law are interlinked and mutually reinforcing, that crime is an impediment to sustainable development and that achieving sustainable development is an enabling factor for States to effectively prevent and combat crime;

<sup>1</sup> General Assembly resolution [70/174](#), annex.

<sup>2</sup> General Assembly resolution [70/1](#).

4. We undertake to promote the rule of law through multidimensional approaches;

5. We undertake to intensify concerted global efforts to prevent and combat crime by facilitating and strengthening international cooperation in criminal matters;

6. We draw attention, in view of rapidly changing realities, to the need for timely adaptation and, if the need arises, strengthening of the international legal framework for international cooperation on criminal matters;

7. We undertake to enhance the capacity of law enforcement and other criminal justice institutions, as central components of the rule of law, and practitioners to effectively prevent and combat crime, and to provide technical assistance in this regard;

8. We undertake that our law enforcement, criminal justice and other relevant institutions will effectively and appropriately employ new and advanced technologies as tools against crime with adequate and effective safeguards to prevent the misuse and abuse of these technologies in this regard;

9. We emphasize our primary role and responsibility as States and Governments for defining crime prevention strategies and policies;

10. We undertake to enhance multidisciplinary efforts to prevent and combat crime through cooperation and coordination between law enforcement and other criminal justice institutions, and other governmental sectors, as well as to support their work, by engaging in and fostering multi-stakeholder partnerships with the private sector, civil society, academia and the scientific community, and with other relevant stakeholders as appropriate;

11. We reaffirm our commitment to strengthening the central role of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice as the main policymaking body of the United Nations in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice;

12. We reaffirm the role of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime as the leading entity of the United Nations supporting Member States in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice through the provision of technical assistance and capacity-building, as well as through its normative work, research and expertise, in cooperation with relevant stakeholders, to which we endeavour to provide sufficient, stable and predictable funding, and the role of the Vienna-based intergovernmental forums, including policymaking bodies and their subsidiary bodies, within the United Nations system on crime prevention and criminal justice as a most valuable and global source of knowledge, inputs, guidance and best practices in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice within their respective mandates;

13. We express grave concern about the situation arising from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and its social and economic implications, which have created new opportunities for and transformed the *modi operandi* of criminals and organized criminal groups in different forms and to different extents, as well as posed challenges to criminal justice in multiple aspects;

14. We also express grave concern about the vulnerability of prisons, especially in terms of health, safety and security, to the real risk of a rapid spread of the virus in closed settings, which can be further aggravated by long-standing challenges such as prison overcrowding and poor prison conditions;

15. We commit ourselves to take decisive actions and action-oriented measures to address challenges and remove international impediments posed and aggravated by COVID-19 to crime prevention and criminal justice, including by a multilateral approach and strengthening the resilience of law enforcement and other criminal justice institutions through multilateral cooperation and multi-stakeholder partnership, with special attention to the urgent capacity-building and technical assistance needs of developing countries in this regard, bearing in mind the long-term social and economic implications of the pandemic, including for sustainable

development and international cooperation, and recognizing that the poorest and most vulnerable are the hardest hit by the impact of the pandemic;

16. We recognize, in light of the ongoing experience of the COVID-19 pandemic, and in preparation for any similar future challenges, the need to review criminal justice systems and to make them more effective, accountable, transparent, inclusive and responsive through promoting digitalization;

17. We recommit to a multilateral approach in preventing and combating crimes and promoting the rule of law at the local, national, regional and international levels, and reaffirm the central role of the United Nations, including the role of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime as the leading entity of the United Nations in supporting Member States in this regard;

18. We strongly reaffirm the responsibility of all States to fully promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms, as well as to uphold the principle of human dignity, in the impartial administration of justice and throughout all our efforts in preventing and combating crime;

19. We strongly reaffirm the responsibility of all States to uphold the Charter of the United Nations in its entirety and to fully respect the principles of sovereign equality and the territorial integrity of States and that of non-intervention in the domestic affairs of other States throughout all our efforts in preventing and combating crime;

20. We commit to making full and effective use of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto,<sup>3</sup> the United Nations Convention against Corruption,<sup>4</sup> the three international drug control conventions, relevant international conventions and protocols related to counter-terrorism, as parties to those instruments, and other relevant international obligations, including as a basis to facilitate international cooperation;

*We therefore endeavour to take the following actions:*

### **Advancing crime prevention**

#### *Addressing the causes, including the root causes, of crime*

21. Develop, implement and evaluate crime prevention strategies, including their effectiveness, that address the causes, including the root causes, and risk factors that make different segments of society more vulnerable to crime, and share best practices to strengthen our capacity;

#### *Evidence-based crime prevention*

22. Enhance evidence-based crime prevention strategies through the collection and analysis of data using systematic and coherent criteria, bearing in mind the International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes, and evaluate the effectiveness of such strategies;

23. Improve the quality and availability of data on crime trends, considering the development of statistical indicators, and share such data, on a voluntary basis, to strengthen our capacity to better understand global crime trends and improve the effectiveness of strategies to prevent and combat crime;

#### *Addressing the economic dimension of crime*

24. Develop and implement effective measures to address the economic dimension of crime and deprive criminals and criminal organizations of any illicit gains through, inter alia, identifying, tracing, seizing, confiscating, recovering and returning proceeds of crime, as well as establishing robust domestic frameworks for

<sup>3</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vols. 2225, 2237, 2241 and 2326, No. 39574.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid., vol. 2349, No. 42146.

financial investigations, and to develop strategies to prevent and combat money-laundering and illicit financial flows;

25. Consider, review and implement efficient measures to regulate the management of seized and confiscated proceeds of crime, bearing in mind the study prepared by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime on effective management and disposal of seized and confiscated assets,<sup>5</sup> with a view to efficiently preserving and managing such proceeds of crime;

#### *Tailor-made crime prevention strategies*

26. Promote tailor-made crime prevention strategies that take into account local contexts, including by fostering among the general public a culture of lawfulness, cognizant of cultural diversity, based on respect for the rule of law, in order to, inter alia, advance cooperation among stakeholders and the police, promote positive conflict resolution, as well as community-oriented policing in accordance with national legislation, and prevent gang-related and urban crime and all forms of organized crime;

#### *Mainstreaming a gender perspective into crime prevention*

27. Mainstream a gender perspective into crime prevention policies, programmes, legislation and other actions to, inter alia, prevent all forms of gender-related violence, crime and victimization, including gender-related killings, by undertaking an analysis of gender-related specific needs and circumstances, as well as by soliciting contributions from impacted groups;

28. Prevent and counter domestic violence, and to that end, take effective measures within our domestic legislation, such as ensuring appropriate handling of cases, coordinating the role of welfare and criminal justice institutions and providing a safe environment for victims;

#### *Children and youth in crime prevention*

29. Address the needs and protect the rights of children and youth, with due consideration to their vulnerabilities, to ensure their protection from all forms of crime, violence, abuse and exploitation both online and offline, such as sexual abuse and exploitation of children and trafficking in persons, noting the particular vulnerabilities of children in the context of smuggling of migrants, as well as recruitment by organized criminal groups including gangs, as well as by terrorist groups;

#### *Youth empowerment for crime prevention*

30. Empower youth to become active agents of positive change in their communities to support crime prevention efforts, including by organizing social, educational, cultural, recreational, sports-related youth programmes and youth forums, as well as by using social media platforms and applications and other digital tools to amplify their voice;

### **Advancing the criminal justice system**

#### *Safeguarding victims' rights and protecting witnesses and reporting persons*

31. Protect the rights and interests of victims of crime and make efforts to assist them at every stage of criminal justice proceedings, giving due attention to the special needs and circumstances of victims, including age, gender-specific and other needs, and disabilities, as well as to the harms caused by crime, including trauma, and endeavour to provide victims with the means that may assist in their recovery, including the possibility to obtain compensation and reparation;

<sup>5</sup> *Effective Management and Disposal of Seized and Confiscated Assets* (Vienna, 2017).

32. Encourage victims to report crime by providing them with adequate support, including in criminal proceedings, such as effective access to translation services;

33. Take appropriate measures to provide effective protection for witnesses in criminal proceedings and for reporting persons;

34. Provide adequate resources and training to practitioners to strengthen their capacity to provide victim-centred assistance and support that take into account the specific needs of victims;

#### *Improving prison conditions*

35. Improve the detention conditions for both pretrial and post-trial detainees and the capacities of prison, correction and other relevant officers in this regard, including by promoting the practical application of relevant provisions of the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules),<sup>6</sup> as well as the United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders (the Bangkok Rules);<sup>7</sup>

36. Take measures to address overcrowding in detention facilities and to improve the overall effectiveness and capacity of the criminal justice system, including by considering the use of alternatives to pretrial detention and custodial sentences, giving due consideration to the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for Non-custodial Measures (the Tokyo Rules);<sup>8</sup>

#### *Reducing reoffending through rehabilitation and reintegration*

37. Promote a rehabilitative environment in correctional facilities, including through designing and implementing effective treatment programmes based on an individual assessment of the needs and risks of offenders, and provide offenders with access to vocational and technical training and educational programmes to support them to develop the necessary skills for reintegration;

38. Promote a rehabilitative environment in the community to facilitate the social reintegration of offenders with the active involvement of local communities, giving due regard to the need to protect society and individuals and the rights of victims and offenders;

39. Promote multi-stakeholder partnerships to reduce reoffending by fostering inter-agency coordination among relevant government authorities, such as employment and social welfare agencies and local governments, as well as public-private partnerships between those authorities and the community, including cooperating employers and community volunteers who support the long-term and social reintegration of offenders;

40. Raise awareness of the importance of the public acceptance of offenders as members of the community and the significance of community engagement in assisting their long-term and social reintegration;

41. Promote, where appropriate, cooperation on the transfer of sentenced persons to serve the rest of their sentences in their own countries, conclude bilateral or multilateral agreements or arrangements in this regard as necessary, taking into consideration the rights of sentenced persons and issues relating to consent, rehabilitation and reintegration, as appropriate, and raise awareness among these prisoners about the availability of such measures;

42. Facilitate, where appropriate and in accordance with domestic legal frameworks, restorative justice processes at relevant stages in criminal proceedings

<sup>6</sup> General Assembly resolution 70/175, annex.

<sup>7</sup> General Assembly resolution 65/229, annex.

<sup>8</sup> General Assembly resolution 45/110, annex.

in order to assist the recovery of victims and the reintegration of offenders, as well as to prevent crime and recidivism, and assess their usefulness in this regard;

*Mainstreaming a gender perspective into criminal justice systems*

43. Develop and implement appropriate and effective policies and plans to achieve gender equality and remove impediments to the advancement of women and women's empowerment in law enforcement and other criminal justice institutions at all levels, and in this regard pledge to take further concrete action to ensure the full, effective and accelerated implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action<sup>9</sup> and of the outcome documents as adopted at the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly;<sup>10</sup>

44. Mainstream a gender perspective into the criminal justice system by promoting gender-responsive measures that address the gender-specific needs of both offenders and victims, including the protection of women and girls from revictimization in criminal justice proceedings;

*Addressing the vulnerabilities of children and youth in contact with the criminal justice system*

45. Establish or strengthen juvenile justice systems or other similar proceedings that address the seriousness of the offending behaviour and the degree of responsibility of juveniles, as well as their vulnerabilities and the causes, including the root causes, and risk factors of their offending behaviour, in order to facilitate their rehabilitation and reintegration, including by promoting the practical application of relevant provisions of the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Administration of Juvenile Justice (the Beijing Rules);<sup>11</sup>

46. Implement, and strengthen as appropriate, measures to assist the rehabilitation and reintegration of children and youth who have been involved in all forms of organized criminal groups including gangs, as well as in terrorist groups, while protecting their rights and giving full recognition to the importance of delivering justice and protecting the safety of victims of these criminal groups and society throughout the implementation of such measures;

*Improving criminal investigation processes*

47. Encourage the use and sharing of good practices on legally grounded, evidence-based interviewing methods designed to obtain only voluntary statements, thereby reducing the risk of unlawful, abusive and coercive measures being used during criminal investigation processes, and enable the obtaining of best evidence, thereby improving the legitimacy and quality of criminal investigations, prosecutions and convictions, and the efficient use of resources, as well as continue to welcome the collaboration between practitioners, experts and other relevant stakeholders on the elaboration of a set of international guidelines for non-coercive interviewing methods and procedural safeguards in this regard;

**Promoting the rule of law**

*Access to justice and equal treatment before the law*

48. Ensure equal access to justice and application of the law to all, including vulnerable members of society, regardless of their status, including by taking appropriate measures to ensure treatment with respect and without discrimination or bias of any kind by criminal justice institutions;

<sup>9</sup> Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4–15 September 1995 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

<sup>10</sup> General Assembly resolution S-23/2, annex, and resolution S-23/3, annex.

<sup>11</sup> General Assembly resolution 40/33, annex.



*Access to legal aid*

49. Take measures to ensure access to timely, effective, adequately resourced and affordable legal aid for those without sufficient means or when the interests of justice so require, and raise awareness of the availability of such aid, including by promoting the practical application of relevant provisions of the United Nations Principles and Guidelines on Access to Legal Aid in Criminal Justice Systems,<sup>12</sup> United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime tools on ensuring the quality of legal aid services in criminal justice processes and other related tools, by encouraging the development of guidance tools, as well as the collection and sharing of data on access to legal aid, and by developing a specialized network of legal aid providers to exchange information and best practices and to assist each other in carrying out their work;

*National sentencing policies*

50. Promote national sentencing policies, practices or guidelines for the treatment of offenders in which the severity of penalties for offenders is proportionate to the gravity of offences in accordance with national legislation;

*Effective, accountable, impartial and inclusive institutions*

51. Ensure the integrity and impartiality of law enforcement and other institutions comprising the criminal justice system, as well as the independence of the judiciary, and ensure the fair, effective, accountable, transparent and appropriate administration and delivery of justice, while taking into consideration the documents<sup>13</sup> noted by relevant General Assembly and Economic and Social Council resolutions;

52. Take effective legislative, administrative, judicial or other relevant measures to prevent, investigate, prosecute and punish all forms of torture and end impunity in this regard, and to prevent other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment;

*Effective anti-corruption efforts*

53. Effectively avail ourselves of existing tools of the international anti-corruption architecture, particularly by implementing the Convention against Corruption and the Organized Crime Convention, and other relevant tools where applicable;

54. Develop, adequately resource and implement effective policies and measures, including by, inter alia, enhancing the collection and assessment of data to analyse corruption and strengthening the integrity, transparency and accountability of public institutions, in order to prevent, detect, investigate, prosecute and adjudicate corruption in a holistic manner for ending impunity;

55. Ensure the use of appropriate measures to effectively disrupt the existing links between organized criminal groups and corruption, including by preventing and combating bribery and the laundering of proceeds of crime into the legitimate economy, and thus develop strategies to prevent and combat illicit financial flows;

56. Provide protection against any unjustified treatment for any persons who report acts of corruption in good faith and on reasonable grounds to the competent authorities, and thereby promote the reporting of corruption;

57. Investigate, prosecute and punish threats and acts of violence, falling within their jurisdiction, committed against journalists and media workers, whose

<sup>12</sup> General Assembly resolution [67/187](#), annex.

<sup>13</sup> These documents include the Basic Principles on the Independence of the Judiciary and its complementary document, the Bangalore Principles of Judicial Conduct, the Basic Principles on the Role of Lawyers and the Guidelines on the Role of Prosecutors, and the Istanbul Declaration on Transparency in the Judicial Process and measures for the effective implementation of the Istanbul Declaration.

professional duties put them at specific risk of intimidation, harassment and violence through the conduct of impartial, efficient and effective investigations, in particular in the context of fighting corruption and organized criminal activities, including in conflict and post-conflict situations, with a view to ending impunity for crimes committed against them, in accordance with national legislation and applicable international law;

58. Increase public awareness of means for reporting instances of corruption, including by disseminating information regarding the responsibilities and rights of reporting persons, including available measures for their protection;

*Social, educational and other measures*

59. Provide access to quality education and promote awareness-raising activities regarding law and policies, including public law-related education for all, to equip the public with the values, skills and knowledge necessary to foster among the general public a culture of lawfulness, cognizant of cultural diversity, based on respect for the rule of law;

**Promoting international cooperation and technical assistance to prevent and address all forms of crime**

*International cooperation, including through capacity-building and technical assistance*

60. Actively participate in and contribute to the recently launched Mechanism for the Review of the Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto, as well as the Mechanism for the Review of Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption, in order to assist States parties in the implementation of those instruments, identify and substantiate specific needs for technical assistance, share best practices and promote effective international cooperation;

61. Increase the efficiency and effectiveness of central authorities and other competent authorities responsible for facilitating international cooperation such as mutual legal assistance and extradition, including by providing adequate human and material resources, expertise and tools such as modern communications and case-management tools, enhancing capacity-building and technical assistance programmes and updating and disseminating tools such as the Sharing Electronic Resources and Laws on Crime knowledge management portal, the Mutual Legal Assistance Request Writer Tool and the Directory of Competent National Authorities, with the cooperation and coordination of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime;

62. Strengthen effective international cooperation in criminal matters, including in the areas of extradition and mutual legal assistance, while effectively addressing existing challenges and difficulties, especially with regard to requests, and promoting good practices, facilitate the use of existing regional and international instruments, including the Convention against Corruption and the Organized Crime Convention, as a legal basis for extradition and mutual legal assistance cooperation, and implement and conclude, as necessary, agreements or arrangements to enhance international cooperation in this regard;

63. Establish or strengthen regional and cross-regional cooperation networks of law enforcement and other criminal justice practitioners to exchange information and best practices with a view to, inter alia, building trust among them and further facilitating international cooperation;

64. Facilitate the formal and, to the extent permitted under domestic law, non-formal exchange of information and communication necessary to prevent and combat crime, including through the support of intergovernmental organizations such as the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL);

65. Continue to enhance international cooperation through technical assistance and capacity-building, including with the support of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, and build upon ongoing initiatives and good practices such as the Global Programme for the Implementation of the Doha Declaration;

66. Promote, facilitate and support the widest measures of technical assistance, including material support and training, with a view to enabling law enforcement authorities and criminal justice institutions to effectively prevent and combat crimes, taking into account the specific challenges faced by and the particular needs of developing countries;

67. Recognize the fundamental role of effective international cooperation in preventing and combating crime and to this end, underline the importance of addressing, tackling and effectively responding to international challenges and barriers, in particular measures, that hinder such cooperation, and which are not consistent with the Charter of the United Nations and obligations under international law, and in this regard urge States, consistent with their international obligations, to refrain from applying such measures;

*International cooperation to deprive criminals of their proceeds of crime*

68. Strengthen international cooperation and assistance regarding the identification, tracing, freezing, seizing and confiscation of proceeds or other property and instrumentalities of crime and their disposal including by return, including in accordance with all the relevant provisions and principles of the Organized Crime Convention and the Convention against Corruption, and where appropriate, give special consideration to concluding agreements or mutually acceptable arrangements in this regard, on a case-by-case basis, for the return and final disposal of confiscated property pursuant to article 57, paragraph 5, of the Convention against Corruption, as well as due consideration to agreeing to measures to enhance transparency and accountability, recognizing that, consistent with article 4 of the Convention, States cannot unilaterally impose terms in this regard;

69. When resolving corruption-related cases that make use of alternative legal mechanisms and non-trial resolution including settlements, that have proceeds of crime for confiscation and return, make use of assistance from affected States, where appropriate and consistent with domestic law, in order to enhance international cooperation, information- and evidence-sharing and the recovery of proceeds of crime in accordance with the Convention against Corruption and domestic law;

70. Recognize asset recovery as an important element of crime prevention and criminal justice, particularly in cases involving corruption, and in that regard strengthen political will while safeguarding due process;

71. Encourage States to remove barriers and overcome obstacles to applying measures for the recovery of assets, in particular by simplifying their legal procedures, where appropriate and in accordance with domestic law, taking into consideration the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the use of returned assets in accordance with domestic laws and in line with domestic priorities, and bearing in mind that strengthening the recovery of stolen assets and their return will support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda;

72. Implement the measures necessary to obtain and share reliable information on beneficial ownership of companies, legal structures or other complex legal mechanisms, thus facilitating the investigation process and the execution of mutual legal assistance requests;

*Terrorism in all its forms and manifestations*

73. Strengthen cooperation at the international, regional and subregional levels to prevent and combat all acts, methods and practices of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, including by strengthening the rule of law at all levels and by ensuring the implementation by parties of the relevant international conventions

and protocols related to counter-terrorism and by formulating strategies aimed at effectively addressing the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism including violent extremism as and when conducive to terrorism, while recognizing that nothing can justify acts of terrorism, and implement the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in all its aspects at the international, subregional and national levels without delay, including by mobilizing resources and expertise;

74. Ensure more effective actions against terrorism in all its forms and manifestations wherever and by whomsoever committed, in particular investigations and prosecutions supported by credible and verifiable information and evidence, and to this end improve the collection, handling and preservation of relevant information and evidence, and consider participating in information- and evidence-sharing networks as appropriate;

75. Identify, analyse and counter any existing, growing or potential links, in some cases, between the financing of terrorism and transnational organized crime, illicit drug-related activities, money-laundering, kidnapping and hostage-taking with the aim of raising funds including by demands for ransom, and extortion, to prevent and tackle financial and logistical support to terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons, in compliance with obligations under applicable international law;

76. Address the growing threat posed by foreign terrorist fighters, including through the implementation of applicable international obligations, and underline the importance of United Nations capacity-building and facilitation of capacity-building in accordance with existing mandates to assist States, including those in the most-affected regions, upon their request;

77. Improve the security and resilience of critical infrastructure and the protection of particularly vulnerable “soft targets”, including through increased information-sharing among law enforcement, the private sector and the public;

78. Take appropriate measures to prevent and combat incitement to commit a terrorist attack and the spread of such terrorist propaganda, and expressing alarm at the glorification of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations;

*New, emerging and evolving forms of crime*

79. Strengthen measures to address new, emerging and evolving forms of crime, including by making maximum use of the relevant and applicable conventions, such as the Organized Crime Convention and the Protocols thereto through the measures contained therein, to prevent and combat crimes, facilitate international cooperation and confiscate and return the proceeds of crime;

80. Examine trends and the evolution of methods employed in the conduct of crime to develop effective means of international cooperation and technical assistance, including through enhanced information-sharing and an exchange of views, experiences and best practices within the framework of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and other relevant global and regional forums;

81. Strengthen efforts to prevent, counter and combat trafficking in persons, including by supporting data collection and sharing as appropriate, through relevant technical assistance by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, addressing factors that make people vulnerable to trafficking, detecting and dismantling trafficking networks, including in supply chains, discouraging demand that fosters exploitation leading to trafficking, ending impunity of trafficking networks, conducting financial investigations and using special investigative techniques under the conditions prescribed by domestic law, and protecting victims of trafficking in persons;

82. Adopt and implement effective measures to prevent and combat the smuggling of migrants and protect the lives and the human rights of migrants, consistent with the respective obligations of parties under the Organized Crime

Convention and the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, supplementing the Convention<sup>14</sup> and all other relevant international obligations, especially on human rights, strengthen bilateral, regional and international cooperation in this regard, in particular to tackle, including through the concurrent undertaking of financial investigations and special investigative techniques, the increasing role of transnational and national organized criminal groups profiting from such crime and other crimes against migrants, and underscore to make every possible effort to prevent further casualties and loss of lives;

83. Foster global, regional and bilateral cooperation to prevent criminals and criminal organizations from accessing firearms, and strengthen mechanisms and strategies for border control for preventing and combating illicit trafficking in and diversion of firearms, their parts and components and ammunition, including online trade, and the illicit reactivation of deactivated firearms;

84. Enhance cooperation to address and counter threats related to technological developments and changing *modi operandi* with regard to the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, their parts and components and ammunition and investigate and prosecute these crimes, including by ensuring law enforcement cooperation, as well as the systematic tracing of seized arms;

85. Effectively address and counter the world drug problem, which requires concerted and sustained action at the national, regional and international levels, including accelerating the implementation of existing drug policy commitments, through a comprehensive and balanced approach and based on the principle of common and shared responsibility;

86. Take more effective measures to prevent and end abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children, including child sexual exploitation and sexual abuse online and offline, by criminalizing such acts, supporting victims and fostering international cooperation to combat these crimes;

87. Adopt effective measures to prevent and combat crimes that affect the environment, such as illicit trafficking in wildlife, including, *inter alia*, flora and fauna as protected by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora,<sup>15</sup> in timber and timber products, in hazardous wastes and other wastes and in precious metals, stones and other minerals, as well as, *inter alia*, poaching, by making the best possible use of relevant international instruments and by strengthening legislation, international cooperation, capacity-building, criminal justice responses and law enforcement efforts aimed at, *inter alia*, dealing with transnational organized crime, corruption and money-laundering linked to such crimes, and illicit financial flows derived from such crimes, while acknowledging the need to deprive criminals of proceeds of crime;

88. Encourage data collection and research on the manufacturing of and trafficking in falsified medical products, while recognizing, within its scope of application, the definition of falsified medical products endorsed by the World Health Assembly in 2017, and, taking this into account, strengthen, as appropriate, measures to respond to the manufacturing of and trafficking in falsified medical products;

89. Strengthen national and international responses to trafficking in cultural property and other crimes targeting cultural property, and any links to the financing of organized crime and terrorism, and enhance international cooperation in this regard, including through appropriate channels, the return or restitution of such illicitly trafficked cultural properties to countries of origin, taking into consideration existing instruments such as the Organized Crime Convention, the Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property,<sup>16</sup> the International Guidelines for Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Responses with Respect to Trafficking in Cultural Property and

<sup>14</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2241, No. 39574.

<sup>15</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 993, No. 14537.

<sup>16</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 823, No. 11806.

Other Related Offences,<sup>17</sup> and other relevant instruments, and with a view to considering all possible options to make effective use of the applicable international legal framework to combat crimes against cultural property, and considering any proposals to supplement the existing framework for international cooperation, as necessary;

90. Undertake efforts to better understand the smuggling of commercial goods with a view to strengthening our responses, in accordance with national law, to this type of crime and its possible linkages with corruption and other crimes;

91. Develop effective strategies, including by enhancing the capacity of criminal justice professionals, to prevent, investigate and prosecute hate crimes, as well as engage effectively with victims and victim communities to build public trust when engaging with law enforcement to report such crimes;

92. Strengthen measures to address the threat of other new, emerging and evolving forms of crime, as well as their possible links with organized criminal groups as a source of lucrative profits for their illicit activities;

93. Enhance coordination and international cooperation to effectively prevent and combat the growing threat of cybercrime;

94. Promote the appropriate utilization of technology by law enforcement and other criminal justice institutions through providing technical assistance upon request, capacity-building and necessary training, as well as improving legislation, regulations and policies so that they are adaptable to continuous technological developments;

95. Promote, at the national, regional and international levels, with due respect for domestic legal frameworks and the principles of international law, public-private partnerships with the digital industry, the financial sector and communication service providers to enhance international cooperation to combat cybercrime;

*In order to ensure appropriate follow-up to this present declaration and to our commitments:*

96. We call upon the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, in accordance with its mandate, to adopt the appropriate policy and operational measures for the follow-up to this declaration and to identify innovative ways to make use of information on progress made in the implementation of this declaration, and invite the Commission to engage with other relevant stakeholders, including the institutes of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme network, in order to strengthen global partnership in advancing crime prevention, criminal justice and the rule of law towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda;

97. We express our profound gratitude to the people and Government of Japan for their warm and generous hospitality and for the excellent facilities provided for the Fourteenth Congress.

## **Resolution 2**

### **Credentials of representatives to the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice**

*The Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice,*

*Having examined* the report of the Credentials Committee,<sup>18</sup>

*Approves* the report of the Credentials Committee.

<sup>17</sup> General Assembly resolution 69/196, annex.

<sup>18</sup> A/CONF.234/L.5.

## Chapter II

### Background and preparations for the Congress

2. The Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice was convened in accordance with paragraph (d) of the annex to General Assembly resolution 415 (V), which provided for the convening every five years of an international congress in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice, as well as in pursuance of Assembly resolutions [46/152](#), annex, [56/119](#), [70/174](#), [71/206](#), [72/192](#), [73/184](#) and [74/171](#) and Assembly decisions 74/550 A and B.

3. In its resolution [70/174](#), the General Assembly welcomed with appreciation the offer of the Government of Japan to act as host to the Fourteenth Congress. In its resolution [72/192](#), the Assembly decided that the main theme of the Fourteenth Congress should be “Advancing crime prevention, criminal justice and the rule of law: towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda”. In its resolution [73/184](#), the 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 should 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. Also in the same resolution, the Assembly reiterated its invitation to Member States to be represented at the Fourteenth Congress at the highest possible level and to play an active role in the Congress. Owing to the situation concerning the coronavirus disease (COVID-19), the Assembly decided, in its decision 74/550 A, to postpone the holding of the Fourteenth Congress. In its decision 74/550 B, the Assembly decided to hold the Fourteenth Congress from 7 to 12 March 2021 in Kyoto, with pre-Congress consultations to be held on 6 March 2021.

4. In its resolution [72/192](#), the General Assembly decided on the four issues to be considered by the workshops to be held within the framework of the Fourteenth Congress, emphasized the importance of those workshops and invited Member States, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and other relevant entities to provide financial, organizational and technical support to UNODC and the institutes of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme network for the preparations for the workshops, including the preparation and circulation of relevant background material.

5. Five regional preparatory meetings for the Fourteenth Congress were held in 2019: (a) Asia and Pacific Regional Preparatory Meeting, held in Bangkok from 22 to 24 January 2019; (b) Latin American and Caribbean Regional Preparatory Meeting, held in Santiago from 5 to 7 February 2019; (c) Western Asia Regional Preparatory Meeting, held in Beirut from 26 to 28 March 2019; (d) African Regional Preparatory Meeting, held in Addis Ababa from 9 to 11 April 2019; and (e) European Regional Preparatory Meeting, held in Vienna from 23 to 25 April 2019.

## Chapter III

### Attendance and organization of work

#### A. Date and venue of the Congress

6. The Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice was held in Kyoto from 7 to 12 March 2021, pursuant to General Assembly resolutions [70/174](#), [71/206](#), [72/192](#), [73/184](#) and [74/171](#), as well as Assembly decisions 74/550 A and B. It combined an in-person component at the Kyoto International Conference Center with a large online presence, with participants worldwide attending by means of an interactive online event platform.

## B. Pre-Congress consultations

7. In conformity with the practice followed at United Nations special conferences and pursuant to General Assembly resolution [56/119](#), informal pre-Congress consultations were held on 6 March 2021. Participation in the consultations was open to representatives of all States invited to the Congress. A set of recommendations on the organization of work of the Congress was agreed upon in the course of the consultations (see [A/CONF.234/L.1](#)).

## C. Attendance

8. The following States were represented at the Congress: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria,<sup>19</sup> Andorra, Angola,<sup>19</sup> Argentina, Armenia, Australia,<sup>19</sup> Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh,<sup>19</sup> Belarus,<sup>19</sup> Belgium,<sup>19</sup> Belize,<sup>20</sup> Benin, Bhutan,<sup>19</sup> Bolivia (Plurinational State of),<sup>21</sup> Bosnia and Herzegovina,<sup>19</sup> Botswana,<sup>19</sup> Brazil,<sup>19</sup> Brunei Darussalam,<sup>20</sup> Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde,<sup>19</sup> Cambodia,<sup>20</sup> Canada,<sup>19</sup> Chile, China,<sup>19</sup> Colombia,<sup>19</sup> Costa Rica,<sup>19</sup> Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba,<sup>21</sup> Cyprus, Czechia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark,<sup>21</sup> Djibouti,<sup>20</sup> Dominican Republic,<sup>19</sup> Ecuador,<sup>21</sup> Egypt,<sup>21</sup> El Salvador,<sup>20</sup> Eritrea,<sup>20</sup> Estonia, Ethiopia,<sup>20</sup> Fiji,<sup>20</sup> Finland,<sup>19</sup> France,<sup>19</sup> Georgia,<sup>19</sup> Germany,<sup>19</sup> Ghana,<sup>19</sup> Greece, Guatemala,<sup>21</sup> Guinea, Haiti,<sup>20</sup> Honduras,<sup>19</sup> Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of),<sup>19</sup> Iraq, Ireland,<sup>19</sup> Israel,<sup>21</sup> Italy,<sup>21</sup> Jamaica,<sup>19</sup> Japan, Jordan,<sup>19</sup> Kazakhstan,<sup>21</sup> Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan,<sup>19</sup> Lao People's Democratic Republic,<sup>19</sup> Latvia, Lebanon,<sup>19</sup> Libya,<sup>19</sup> Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi,<sup>19</sup> Malaysia,<sup>19</sup> Maldives,<sup>19</sup> Malta, Mauritius,<sup>20</sup> Mexico,<sup>21</sup> Micronesia (Federated States of),<sup>21</sup> Monaco,<sup>21</sup> Mongolia,<sup>21</sup> Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique,<sup>20</sup> Myanmar,<sup>20</sup> Namibia,<sup>21</sup> Nepal,<sup>19</sup> Netherlands, New Zealand,<sup>19</sup> Nicaragua,<sup>21</sup> Nigeria,<sup>19</sup> North Macedonia, Norway, Oman, Pakistan,<sup>21</sup> Panama, Paraguay, Peru,<sup>19</sup> Philippines,<sup>19</sup> Poland,<sup>19</sup> Portugal, Qatar,<sup>19</sup> Republic of Korea,<sup>21</sup> Republic of Moldova, Romania,<sup>21</sup> Russian Federation,<sup>19</sup> Rwanda,<sup>20</sup> Saint Vincent and the Grenadines,<sup>21</sup> San Marino, Saudi Arabia,<sup>19</sup> Serbia, Sierra Leone,<sup>20</sup> Singapore,<sup>21</sup> Slovakia, Slovenia, Somalia,<sup>19</sup> South Africa,<sup>19</sup> South Sudan,<sup>19</sup> Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan,<sup>19</sup> Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic,<sup>19</sup> Thailand, Togo, Tunisia,<sup>21</sup> Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda,<sup>19</sup> Ukraine,<sup>19</sup> United Arab Emirates,<sup>20</sup> United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland,<sup>19</sup> United Republic of Tanzania,<sup>19</sup> United States of America, Uruguay, Uzbekistan,<sup>19</sup> Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of),<sup>21</sup> Viet Nam,<sup>19</sup> Yemen, Zambia<sup>19</sup> and Zimbabwe.<sup>19</sup>

9. The following non-member States were represented by observers: Holy See and State of Palestine.

10. The following units of the Secretariat and other United Nations bodies were represented by observers: Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Department of Peace Operations, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, International Narcotics Control Board, Office of Counter-Terrorism, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict, Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Population Fund and United Nations trust fund for human security. The Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers also attended the Congress.

<sup>19</sup> The Credentials Committee accepted the provisional participation of these States, pending the receipt of the original of their credentials (see [A/CONF.234/L.5](#) and para. 120 below).

<sup>20</sup> The Credentials Committee accepted the provisional participation of these States, pending the receipt of their credentials (see [A/CONF.234/L.5](#) and para. 121 below).

<sup>21</sup> Original credentials were received between 11 and 26 March 2021.



11. The United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute and the following institutes of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme network were also represented by observers: Australian Institute of Criminology, Asia and Far East Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, College for Criminal Law Science, Latin American Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, European Institute for Crime Prevention and Control, International Centre for Criminal Law Reform and Criminal Justice Policy, International Centre for the Prevention of Crime, International Scientific and Professional Advisory Council, Korean Institute of Criminology, Naif Arab University for Security Sciences, Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law, Siracusa International Institute for Criminal Justice and Human Rights and Thailand Institute of Justice.

12. The following specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system were represented by observers: International Labour Organization, International Telecommunication Union, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), World Bank and World Health Organization.

13. The following intergovernmental organizations and mechanisms were represented by observers: Arab Interior Ministers Council, Association of Southeast Asian Nations, Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre, Commonwealth of Independent States, Conference of Ministers of Justice of the Ibero-American Countries, Council of Europe, Eurasian Group on Combating Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorism, European Union, European Union Agency for Criminal Justice Cooperation, European Judicial Network, Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf, European Public Law Organization, Inter-American Development Bank, International Anti-Corruption Academy, International Criminal Court, International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), International Development Law Organization, International Organization for Migration, League of Arab States, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, Organization of Islamic Cooperation, Ibero-American Legal Assistance Network, Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean, Regional Centre on Small Arms, Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, Wassenaar Arrangement secretariat and World Customs Organization.

14. The following other entity was represented by observers: International Committee of the Red Cross.

15. The following non-governmental organizations were represented by observers: Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences, Action pour l'éducation et la promotion de la femme, Advocates for Human Rights, African Centre for Advocacy and Human Development, African Development Association, African Heritage and Global Peace Initiative, Alliance Creative Community Project, American Civil Liberties Union, Amnesty International, Appui solidaire pour le renforcement de l'aide au développement, Article 19: International Centre against Censorship, Asabe Shehu Yar'Adua Foundation, Asia Crime Prevention Foundation, Association for the Prevention of Torture, Association nationale des partenaires migrants, Association of War-Affected Women, Association pour les victimes du monde, Associazione Nazionale Produttori Armi e Munizioni Sportive e Civili, Beijing Children's Legal Aid and Research Center, Ben Newman Hope Care Foundation, Born Free Foundation, Bureau pour la croissance intégrale et la dignité de l'enfant, Child Rights Connect, Citizens United for Rehabilitation of Errants, Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre, Comunita di Sant'Egidio, Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, Criminologists without Borders, Dalit Welfare Association, Death Penalty Project, Defence for Children International, Dominicans for Justice and Peace: Order of Preachers, Ensemble contre la peine de mort, European Law Students' Association, Federation of Environmental and Ecological Diversity for Agricultural Revampment and Human Rights, Friends World Committee for Consultation, Fundación para la Democracia Internacional, Giving Life Nature Volunteer, Global Alert for Defence of Youth and the Less Privileged, Global Alliance against Traffic

in Women, Global Organization of Parliamentarians against Corruption, Graduate Women International, Green Mobilisation Initiative, Howard League for Penal Reform, International Association for the Advancement of Innovative Approaches to Global Challenges, International Association of Applied Psychology, International Association of Democratic Lawyers, International Association of Judges, International Association of Lawyers, International Bar Association, International Corrections and Prisons Association for the Advancement of Professional Corrections, International Council of Women, International Drug Policy Consortium, International Federation of ACAT (Action by Christians for the Abolition of Torture), International Federation of Business and Professional Women, International Harm Reduction Association, International Inner Wheel, International Legal Foundation, International Movement for Advancement of Education Culture Social and Economic Development, International Organization for Victim Assistance, International Prison Chaplains' Association, International Sociological Association, Japan Federation of Bar Associations, Liberians United to Expose Hidden Weapons, Martial Arts Academy, Mission International Rescue Foundation, National Rifle Association of America Institute for Legislative Action, New York City Bar Association, Open Society Foundations, Organization of the Families of Asia and the Pacific, Penal Reform International, People of Good Heart, Réseau communautaire pour le pauvre, Save the Children International, Society for Development and Community Empowerment, Soroptimist International, Sporting Arms and Ammunition Manufacturers' Institute, Terre des Hommes International Federation, Transparency International, United Nations of Youth Network – Nigeria, Universal Peace Federation, Wildlife Conservation Society, Wildlife Justice Commission, Women's Federation for World Peace International, World Coalition against the Death Penalty, World Forum on Shooting Activities, World Peace Volunteers, World Society of Victimology, World Wide Fund for Nature International and Zonta International.

16. The following were also represented by observers: Alliance of Non-Governmental Organizations on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, Africa Group for Justice and Accountability, Artificial Intelligence 4 Development Agency, Asia-Pacific Addiction Research Institute, Association for Solidarity through Humanitarian Imperative Actions, Australian Community Support Organisation, European Forum for Restorative Justice, Global Initiative against Transnational Organized Crime, Integration of Vulnerable Groups Association, MUN Impact, Gavel Supporters, Rapha International, Small Arms Survey, Compass Act Foundation, UNCAC Civil Society Coalition, Vasavya Mahila Mandali, Working Group on Children Recruited by Terrorist and Violent Extremist Groups, and Youth for Human Rights Pakistan.

17. More than 750 individual experts participated in the Fourteenth Congress as observers.

## **D. Opening of the Congress**

18. The Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice was officially opened by the Secretary-General of the Congress and Executive Director of UNODC, Ghada Waly.

19. Speaking on behalf of Qatar, the host country of the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, the Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Qatar to the United Nations (Vienna), Sultan Salmeen Almansouri, presented a video message by the Minister of Justice of Qatar, Issa bin Saad Al Jafali Al Nuaimi, in which he stressed his country's readiness to support the organization of and discussions at the Fourteenth Congress.

20. After her election, the President of the Fourteenth Congress, Kamikawa Yoko, Minister of Justice of Japan, was ceremonially presented with a statue entitled *Boat Symbolizing Journey* by Sultan Salmeen Almansouri (Qatar).

21. The President of the Fourteenth Congress addressed the Congress, highlighting the significance of holding the Congress during the COVID-19 period and the

importance of advancing crime prevention and criminal justice with a view to leaving no one behind, as well as the role of youth as torchbearers for the future.

22. A documentary film on the preparations for the Fourteenth Congress was shown.

23. Princess Takamado (Japan) made a statement, noting that the unwavering commitment to building safe and secure societies was a beacon that lit the way for all victims of social and criminal injustice.

24. A documentary film on the Youth Forum preceding the Fourteenth Congress, organized by the Government of Japan, was shown. The Forum had been held on 27 and 28 February 2021 in a hybrid format. It had brought together 150 youth participants, representing 35 nationalities, who had held discussions under the overall theme “Youth engagement for our safe and secure society: towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals”. Two participants in the Youth Forum presented the Forum’s recommendations for global, regional and national action, which were symbolically handed over to the Executive Secretary of the Congress.

25. The Prime Minister of Japan, Suga Yoshihide, made a statement, noting that the international community needed to work together to strengthen efforts in crime prevention and ensure that criminal justice systems were fully functional, even amidst the COVID-19 crisis.

26. The Secretary-General of the United Nations, Antonio Guterres, made a statement using the online platform of the Congress. He highlighted that respect for the rule of law underpinned human rights and enabled sustainable, social, political and economic development.

27. Video messages by the President of the General Assembly, Volkan Bozkir, and the President of the Economic and Social Council, Munir Akram, were shown.

28. The Prosecutor-General of Japan, Hayashi Makoto, made a statement underscoring the importance of tailor-made responses to various forms of crime and of stepping up international cooperation and collaboration for preventing and combating crime.

## **E. Organizational arrangements arising from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19)**

29. 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.

## **F. Election of the President and of other officers**

30. At its 1st plenary meeting, on 7 March 2021, the Fourteenth Congress elected by acclamation Kamikawa Yoko, Minister of Justice of Japan, and head of the delegation of the host country, as President of the Congress.

31. At the same meeting, the Congress also elected by acclamation J. Antonio Marcondes (Brazil) as Chair of Committee I, Matti Joutsen (Finland) as Chair of Committee II, Antoinette Ifeanyi Oche-Obe (Nigeria) as Rapporteur-General and the following States as Vice-Presidents: Côte d’Ivoire, Egypt, Kenya, Libya, Morocco and Namibia (African States); Bangladesh, China, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Kuwait, Qatar and Thailand (Asia-Pacific States); Colombia, Cuba, Paraguay and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) (Latin American and Caribbean States); and Belgium, Italy, Netherlands, Spain and Switzerland (Western European and other States).

32. A representative of the United States announced that his country would submit a written statement on the agenda item for the record.

33. At the 18th plenary meeting, on 12 March 2021, representatives of Cuba, Iran (Islamic Republic of) and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) announced that their countries had submitted written statements on the agenda item for the record.

34. At its 1st meeting, on 7 March 2021, Committee I elected by acclamation Adrien Vernimmen (Belgium) as its Rapporteur.

35. At its 1st meeting, on 8 March 2021, Committee II elected by acclamation Luigi Ripamonti (Italy) as its Rapporteur.

## **G. Adoption of the rules of procedure**

36. At its 1st plenary meeting, on 7 March 2021, the Congress adopted by consensus its rules of procedure ([A/CONF.234/2](#)).

## **H. Adoption of the agenda**

37. At its 1st plenary meeting, on 7 March 2021, the Congress adopted the provisional agenda ([A/CONF.234/1/Rev.1](#)) as approved by the General Assembly in its resolution [72/192](#). The agenda was as follows:

1. Opening of the Congress.
2. Organizational matters:
  - (a) Election of the President and of other officers;
  - (b) Adoption of the rules of procedure;
  - (c) Adoption of the agenda;
  - (d) Organization of work;
  - (e) Credentials of representatives to the Congress:
    - (i) Appointment of members of the Credentials Committee;
    - (ii) Report of the Credentials Committee.
3. Comprehensive strategies for crime prevention towards social and economic development.
4. Integrated approaches to challenges facing the criminal justice system.
5. Multidimensional approaches by Governments to promoting the rule of law by, inter alia, providing access to justice for all; building effective, accountable, impartial and inclusive institutions; and considering social, educational and other relevant measures, including fostering a culture of lawfulness while respecting cultural identities, in line with the Doha Declaration.
6. International cooperation and technical assistance to prevent and address all forms of crime:
  - (a) Terrorism in all its forms and manifestations;
  - (b) New and emerging forms of crime.
7. Adoption of the report of the Congress.

## **I. Allocation of items**

38. It was decided that items 1–7 of the provisional agenda, as well as the high-level segment of the Fourteenth Congress, would be allocated to plenary meetings. It was also decided that workshops 1 and 3 would be allocated to Committee I for

consideration and that workshops 2 and 4 would be allocated to Committee II for consideration.

## **J. Organization of work**

39. At its 1st plenary meeting, on 7 March 2021, in accordance with the recommendations of the pre-Congress consultations held on 6 March 2021 ([A/CONF.234/L.1](#)), the Congress approved its organization of work.

## **K. Credentials of representatives to the Congress and appointment of members of the Credentials Committee**

40. At its 1st plenary meeting, on 7 March 2021, in accordance with rule 4 of the rules of procedure ([A/CONF.234/2](#)) and as proposed by the President, the Congress decided that the following States should be appointed members of the Credentials Committee: Cameroon, Ecuador, Italy, Japan, Mongolia, Russian Federation, United Republic of Tanzania, United States and Uruguay.

41. At its 7th plenary meeting, on 9 March 2021, as proposed by the President, the Congress decided that Angola should be appointed as a member of the Credentials Committee to replace Cameroon, which was no longer in a position to participate in the Committee.

## **L. Participation of non-governmental organizations in the Congress**

42. With regard to the participation of non-governmental organizations in the Congress, the report of the pre-Congress consultations ([A/CONF.234/L.1](#)) and conference room paper A/CONF.234/CRP.9 were brought to the attention of participants.

# **Chapter IV**

## **High-level segment of the Congress**

43. The high-level segment was held in plenary from 7 to 9 March 2021. Statements were made by 141 high-level officials, in person, online or by way of pre-recorded video messages.<sup>22</sup>

### **A. Statements at the high-level segment**

44. The 1st meeting of the high-level segment, on 7 March 2021, was chaired by the President of the Congress. An opening statement was made by Ghada Waly, Executive Director of UNODC.

45. The 2nd meeting of the high-level segment, on 7 March 2021, was chaired by Robinson Njeru Githae (Kenya). The following high-level officials made statements:

Alejandro Solano Ortíz (online)

Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Costa Rica to the United Nations (Vienna) (on behalf of the Group of 77 and China)

Teodolinda Rosa Rodrigues Coelho (online)

Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Angola to the United Nations (Vienna) (on behalf of the Group of African States)

Ylva Johansson (pre-recorded video)

<sup>22</sup> Statements are available at [www.unodc.org/congress/en/statements-high-level-segment.html](http://www.unodc.org/congress/en/statements-high-level-segment.html).

Commissioner for Home Affairs of the European Commission (on behalf of the European Union and its member States)

Juan Orlando Hernández Alvarado (pre-recorded video)  
President of Honduras

Ralph E. Gonsalves (pre-recorded video)  
Prime Minister of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

Kris Faafoi (pre-recorded video)  
Minister of Justice of New Zealand

Kostas Tsiaras (pre-recorded video)  
Minister of Justice of Greece

Cecilia Pérez (pre-recorded video)  
Minister of Justice of Paraguay

María Consuelo Porras Argueta (pre-recorded video)  
Attorney General and General Prosecutor of the Public Prosecution Service of Guatemala

Emily Yiolitis (pre-recorded video)  
Minister of Justice and Public Order of Cyprus

Gocha Lordkipanidze (pre-recorded video)  
Minister of Justice of Georgia

Mohammad Mahfud M.D. (online)  
Coordinating Minister for Political, Legal and Security Affairs of Indonesia

Fikrat Mammadov (in person)  
Minister of Justice of Azerbaijan (also on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries)

Bojan Marichikj (pre-recorded video)  
Minister of Justice of North Macedonia

Mohamed Ali Sabry (pre-recorded video)  
Minister of Justice of Sri Lanka

Carmen Teresa Meléndez Rivas (pre-recorded video)  
Admiral in Chief and Minister of People's Power for Internal Affairs, Justice and Peace of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela

Juan Carlos Campo Moreno (pre-recorded video)  
Minister of Justice of Spain

Khishgee Nyambaatar (pre-recorded video)  
Minister of Justice and Home Affairs of Mongolia

Sheikh Rashid Ahmad (pre-recorded video)  
Federal Minister of the Interior of Pakistan

Alba Luz Ramos Vanegas (pre-recorded video)  
President of the Supreme Court of Justice of Nicaragua

Abubakar Malami (pre-recorded video)  
Attorney General and Minister for Justice of Nigeria

Jānis Bordāns (pre-recorded video)  
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Justice of Latvia

Delroy Chuck (pre-recorded video)  
Minister of Justice of Jamaica

Mohamed Ben Abdelkader (pre-recorded video)  
Minister of Justice of Morocco

46. The 3rd meeting of the high-level segment, on 7 March 2021, was chaired by Robinson Njeru Githae (Kenya). The following high-level officials made statements:

Prince Abdulaziz bin Saud bin Naif bin Abdulaziz Al Saud (online)  
Minister of the Interior of Saudi Arabia

Katrin Eggenberger (pre-recorded video)  
Minister for Foreign Affairs of Liechtenstein

Fazal Ahmad Manawi (in person)  
Minister of Justice of Afghanistan

Mohammad Khaled Al-Rahmoun (pre-recorded video)  
Minister of the Interior of the Syrian Arab Republic

Issa bin Saad Al Jafali Al Nuaimi (pre-recorded video)  
Minister of Justice of Qatar

Evelina Dobrovolska (online)  
Minister of Justice of Lithuania

Abdulhamit Gül (pre-recorded video)  
Minister of Justice of Turkey

Lilijana Kozlovič (pre-recorded video)  
Minister of Justice of Slovenia

Mikael Damberg (pre-recorded video)  
Minister for Home Affairs of Sweden

Janaina Tewaney Mencomo (pre-recorded video)  
Minister of the Interior of Panama

Tag Elsir Ali Alhibir (pre-recorded video)  
Attorney General of the Sudan

Francisco de Queiroz (pre-recorded video)  
Minister of Justice and Human Rights of Angola

Priti Patel (pre-recorded video)  
Secretary of State for the Home Department of the United Kingdom

Ivan Kubrakov (pre-recorded video)  
Minister of Internal Affairs of Belarus

Somsak Thepsuthin (pre-recorded video)  
Minister of Justice of Thailand

Rustam Badasyan (in person)  
Minister of Justice of Armenia

Anna-Maja Henriksson (pre-recorded video)  
Minister of Justice of Finland

Tang Yijun (pre-recorded video)  
Minister of Justice of China

Marcela Miriam Losardo (pre-recorded video)  
Minister of Justice and Human Rights of Argentina

Eric Dupond-Moretti (pre-recorded video)  
Keeper of the Seals and Minister of Justice of France

Salar Mohammed (in person)  
Minister of Justice of Iraq

María del Carmen Maldonado Sánchez (pre-recorded video)  
President of the Council of the Judiciary of Ecuador

David Lametti (pre-recorded video)  
Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada

Avihai Mandelblit (pre-recorded video)  
Attorney General of Israel

47. During the 3rd meeting, the representatives of Azerbaijan, Armenia and Turkey made statements in exercise of the right of reply, in accordance with rule 22 of the rules of procedure.

48. The 4th meeting of the high-level segment, on 8 March 2021, was chaired by Santiago Pardo (Colombia). The following high-level officials made statements:

Vincent Van Quickenborne (pre-recorded video)  
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Justice and the North Sea of Belgium

Ravi Shankar Prasad (pre-recorded video)  
Minister of Law and Justice of India

Peter Dutton (pre-recorded video)  
Minister for Home Affairs of Australia

Sveinung Rotevatn (pre-recorded video)  
Minister of Climate and Environment of Norway

Alma Zadic (pre-recorded video)  
Minister of Justice of Austria

Ronald Lamola (pre-recorded video)  
Minister of Justice and Correctional Services of South Africa

Park Beomkye (pre-recorded video)  
Minister of Justice of the Republic of Korea

Belkacem Zeghmami (pre-recorded video)  
Minister of Justice of Algeria

Stelian-Christian Ion (pre-recorded video)  
Minister of Justice of Romania

Josephine Teo (online)  
Minister of Manpower and Second Minister for Home Affairs of Singapore

Vladimir Kolokoltsev (pre-recorded video)  
Minister of Internal Affairs of the Russian Federation

Selmo Cikotić (in person)  
Minister of Security of Bosnia and Herzegovina

Robert Gelli (pre-recorded video)  
Secretary of State for Justice of Monaco

Helen McEntee (pre-recorded video)  
Minister of Justice of Ireland

Marta Cartabia (pre-recorded video)  
Minister of Justice of Italy

Elvia Barrios Alvarado (online)  
President of the Supreme Court of Justice of Peru

Josep Maria Rossell (pre-recorded video)  
Minister of Justice and the Interior of Andorra

Saysy Santyvong (pre-recorded video)  
Minister of Justice of the Lao People's Democratic Republic

Jesús Vásquez Martínez (pre-recorded video)  
Minister of the Interior and Police of the Dominican Republic

Jorge Abbott (pre-recorded video)  
Prosecutor-General of Chile



André Mendonça (pre-recorded video)  
Minister of Justice and Public Security of Brazil

Ivan Malenica (pre-recorded video)  
Minister of Justice and Public Administration of Croatia

Marie-Claude Najm (pre-recorded video)  
Minister of Justice of Lebanon

Nikola Selaković (pre-recorded video)  
Minister for Foreign Affairs of Serbia

Marie Benesová (pre-recorded video)  
Minister of Justice of Czechia

49. The 5th meeting of the high-level segment, on 8 March 2021, was chaired by Francisco José Rabena Barrachina (Spain). The following high-level officials made statements:

Claudia Blum de Barberi (pre-recorded video)  
Minister for Foreign Affairs of Colombia

Péter Szijjártó (in person)  
Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary

Ferdinand Grapperhaus (pre-recorded video)  
Minister of Justice and Security of the Netherlands

Nasar Khamis Al-Sawaai (pre-recorded video)  
Attorney General of Oman

Maris Lauri (pre-recorded video)  
Minister of Justice of Estonia

Mohamed A.A. Lamlom (pre-recorded video)  
Minister of Justice of Libya

Mohammad Jafar Montazeri (pre-recorded video)  
Prosecutor-General of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Badr Abdo Ahmed Al-Aredha (pre-recorded video)  
Minister of Justice of Yemen

Hamada Elsayy (pre-recorded video)  
Prosecutor General of Egypt

Iván Manolo Lima Magne (pre-recorded video)  
Minister of Justice and Institutional Transparency of the Plurinational State of Bolivia

Ziyambi Ziyambi (pre-recorded video)  
Minister of Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs of Zimbabwe

Byron Camilleri (pre-recorded video)  
Minister for Home Affairs, National Security and Law Enforcement of Malta

Sherub Gyeltshen (pre-recorded video)  
Minister for Home and Cultural Affairs of Bhutan

Fiorella Salazar Rojas (pre-recorded video)  
Minister of Justice and Peace of Costa Rica

Francisca Van Dunem (pre-recorded video)  
Minister of Justice of Portugal

Ephraim Kamuntu (in person)  
Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs of Uganda

Juana Alexandra Hill Tinoco (pre-recorded video)  
Minister for Foreign Affairs of El Salvador

Kessai Note (pre-recorded video)  
Minister of Justice, Immigration, and Labor of the Marshall Islands

Yvonne Dausab (online)  
Minister of Justice of Namibia

Batyr Atdaev (pre-recorded video)  
Prosecutor-General of Turkmenistan

Juan Carlos Ojeda Viglione (online)  
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Uruguay to the United Nations  
(Vienna)

50. During the 5th meeting, the representatives of the United States and Cuba made statements in exercise of the right of reply, in accordance with rule 22 of the rules of procedure.

51. The 6th meeting of the high-level segment, on 8 March 2021, was chaired by Alessandro Cortese (Italy). The following high-level officials made statements:

Tsuji Hiroyuki (in person)  
Vice-Minister of Justice of Japan

Hasna Ben Slimane (online)  
Acting Minister of Justice of Tunisia

Bader Almasaad (pre-recorded video)  
Counsellor, Attorney General of Kuwait

Michal Novotný (online)  
State Secretary, Ministry of Justice of Slovakia

Abdul Halim Bin Hj Abdul Rahman (online)  
Deputy Secretary-General, Ministry of Home Affairs of Malaysia

Biswalo Mganga (online)  
Director of Public Prosecutions of the United Republic of Tanzania

Bernardo Stadelmann (pre-recorded video)  
Vice-Director of the Federal Office of Justice of Switzerland

Margaretha Sudhof (pre-recorded video)  
State Secretary, Federal Office of Justice and Consumer Protection of Germany

Bruce S. Conception (online)  
Special Envoy on Transnational Crime, Office of the President of the Philippines

Kouakou Afognon Sedaminou (in person)  
Chargé d'Affaires a.i. of Togo in Japan, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and Togolese Abroad

Pascal Batjobo (in person)  
Ambassador of Burkina Faso to Japan

Reyneck Matemba (pre-recorded video)  
Solicitor General and Secretary for Justice of Malawi

Dominika Krois (online)  
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Poland to the United Nations  
(Vienna)

Le Hoai Trung (pre-recorded video)  
Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Viet Nam

Martha Delgado (pre-recorded video)  
Deputy Minister for Multilateral Affairs and Human Rights, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mexico

Svetlana Artikova (pre-recorded video)  
Deputy Prosecutor General of Uzbekistan

Lina Annab (online)  
Ambassador, Embassy of Jordan in Japan

Antonio Israel Ybarra (online)  
Director of International Relations of the Ministry of Justice of Cuba

Paul Richard Gallagher (pre-recorded video)  
Secretary for Relations with States of the Holy See

Mohammad Fahhad Al-Shalaldeh (pre-recorded video)  
Minister of Justice of the State of Palestine

52. During the 6th meeting, the representatives of Israel and the United States made statements in exercise of the right of reply, in accordance with rule 22 of the rules of procedure.

53. The 7th meeting of the high-level segment, on 9 March 2021, was chaired by J. Antonio Marcondes (Brazil). The following high-level officials made statements:

Vladimir Voronkov (pre-recorded video)  
Under-Secretary-General, Office of Counter-Terrorism

Liu Zhenmin (pre-recorded video)  
Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, Department of Economic and Social Affairs

Luis Carrilho (online)  
Commissioner, United Nations Police Adviser and Director of the Police Division, Department of Peace Operations

Navamanee Ratna Patten (pre-recorded video)  
Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict

Cornelis P. de Joncheere (pre-recorded video)  
President of the International Narcotics Control Board

Dubravka Šimonović (pre-recorded video)  
Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences

Ivonne Higuero (pre-recorded video)  
Secretary-General of the secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora

Achim Steiner (pre-recorded video)  
Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme

Diene Keita (pre-recorded video)  
Assistant Secretary-General and Deputy Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund

Robinson Njeru Githae (in person)  
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Kenya to the United Nations (Vienna)

Houlin Zhao (pre-recorded video)  
Secretary-General of the International Telecommunication Union

Adriana Blanco Marquizo (pre-recorded video)  
Head of the Secretariat of the World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control

Antonia Marie de Meo (pre-recorded video)  
Director of the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute

Ishihara Kayo (in person)  
Deputy Director of the Asia and Far East Institute for the Prevention of Crime  
and the Treatment of Offenders

Phiset Sa-ardyen (online)  
Executive Director of the Thailand Institute of Justice

Ladislav Hamran (pre-recorded video)  
President of the European Union Agency for Criminal Justice Cooperation

Kunio Mikuriya (in person)  
Secretary-General of the World Customs Organization

Hanne Juncker (pre-recorded video)  
Executive Secretary of the Group of States against Corruption and Head of the  
Action against Crime Department of the Directorate General of Human Rights  
and Rule of Law of the Council of Europe

Spyridon Flogaitis (pre-recorded video)  
Director of the European Public Law Organization

Thomas Stelzer (pre-recorded video)  
Dean and Executive Secretary of the International Anti-Corruption Academy

Jürgen Stock (pre-recorded video)  
Secretary-General of the International Criminal Police Organization  
(INTERPOL)

Lim Jock Hoi (pre-recorded video)  
Secretary-General of the Secretariat of the Association of Southeast Asian  
Nations

Jan Beagle (pre-recorded video)  
Director-General of the International Development Law Organization

54. During the 7th meeting, the representative of the State of Palestine made a  
statement in exercise of the right of reply, in accordance with rule 22 of the rules of  
procedure.

55. The 8th meeting of the high-level segment, on 9 March 2021, was chaired by  
Jalal E.A. Alashi (Libya). The following high-level officials made statements:

Nayef Falah M. Al-Hajraf (pre-recorded video)  
Secretary-General of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf

Yury Chikhanchin (pre-recorded video)  
Chairman, Eurasian Group on Combating Money Laundering and Financing of  
Terrorism

Enrique Gil Botero (pre-recorded video)  
Secretary-General, Conference of Ministers of Justice of the Ibero-American  
Countries

Anna Alvazzi del Frate (pre-recorded video)  
Chair, Alliance of NGOs on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (on behalf  
of non-governmental organizations)

56. During the 8th meeting, the representative of Israel made a statement in exercise  
of the right of reply, in accordance with rule 22 of the rules of procedure.

57. The 16th plenary meeting, on 12 March 2021, was chaired by Yamauchi  
Yoshimitsu (Japan). The following high-level official made a statement:

Bruce Swartz (pre-recorded video)  
Deputy Assistant Attorney General of the United States

58. During the 16th plenary meeting, reference was made to a statement by Etilda  
Gjonaj (Saliu), Minister of Justice of Albania, and to a statement by Anisul Huq,  
Minister for Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs of Bangladesh, which have been  
published on the UNODC website.

## B. Action taken at the high-level segment

59. At the 1st meeting of the high-level segment, on 7 March 2021, the Congress adopted 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/CONF.234/L.6](#)). (For the text of the declaration, see chap. I, resolution 1.)

## Chapter V

### Consideration of agenda items in plenary meetings

#### A. Comprehensive strategies for crime prevention towards social and economic development

##### Proceedings

60. At its 8th and 9th plenary meetings, on 9 March 2021, the Congress considered agenda item 3, entitled “Comprehensive strategies for crime prevention towards social and economic development”. For its consideration of the item, the Congress had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the state of crime and criminal justice worldwide ([A/CONF.234/3](#));

(b) Working paper prepared by the Secretariat on comprehensive strategies for crime prevention towards social and economic development ([A/CONF.234/4](#));

(c) Background paper prepared by the Secretariat for the workshop on evidence-based crime prevention: statistics, indicators and evaluation in support of successful practices ([A/CONF.234/8](#));

(d) Report of the Secretariat on the outcome of the expert group meeting on integrating sport into youth crime prevention and criminal justice strategies ([A/CONF.234/14](#));

(e) Working paper prepared by the Secretariat on developments regarding crime prevention and criminal justice as a result of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic ([A/CONF.234/15](#));

(f) Discussion guide for the Fourteenth Congress ([A/CONF.234/PM.1](#));

(g) Reports of the regional preparatory meetings for the Fourteenth Congress ([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](#)).

61. The 8th plenary meeting was chaired by Jalal E.A. Alashi (Libya). A representative of the Secretariat introduced the agenda item, and a summary of the conclusions of workshop 1, on the topic “Evidence-based crime prevention: statistics, indicators and evaluation in support of successful practices”, was presented by the moderator of that workshop. Statements were made by the representatives of Japan, China, Thailand, Honduras, the United States, Indonesia, South Africa, Viet Nam, Nigeria, the Philippines, Argentina and Morocco. A statement was also made by the observer for the Women’s Federation for World Peace.

62. The 9th plenary meeting was chaired by Hikihara Takeshi (Japan). Statements were made by the representatives of Canada, Italy, Romania, Israel, Angola, Finland and Mexico. Statements were also made by the observers for the International Association for the Advancement of Innovative Approaches to Global Challenges and the Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime.

## General discussion

63. Many speakers stressed that public safety was key for social and economic development and that effective crime prevention was important for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. In that context, several speakers drew attention to the fact that organized crime and corruption, as well as urban crime, had a major impact on economic development and public safety and that international cooperation was crucial in addressing those phenomena.

64. Recognizing the importance of comprehensive and inclusive prevention, several speakers presented efforts to implement effective prevention policies and initiatives with regard to various forms of crime and violence, including gang violence, violence against women, violence against children, cybercrime, trafficking in persons, smuggling of migrants, illicit financial flows and environmental crime and corruption.

65. Many speakers noted that the COVID-19 pandemic had increased economic challenges and inequalities, while creating opportunities for crime, including organized crime. Moreover, it was mentioned that the pandemic had brought issues of social injustice and systemic racism to the fore. Several speakers reflected on measures that had been taken to continue ensuring access to services, including those related to the justice system, by increasing the use of information and communications technologies and digital tools.

66. It was noted that the shared challenges that States faced in strengthening their economies amid a global pandemic presented an opportunity for transformative approaches to crime prevention and renewed efforts in multi-stakeholder partnerships.

67. Speakers reaffirmed that crime prevention should not be the exclusive responsibility of police or the criminal justice system. They stressed that a comprehensive and integrated approach was required, involving all relevant sectors of Government, the private sector and civil society actors, including youth representatives, when designing and implementing crime prevention strategies that addressed root causes of crime and victimization. One speaker noted the role that faith-based organizations could play in that context.

68. Several speakers referred to the need to address socioeconomic exclusion, marginalization and inequalities in the context of crime prevention and reduction and highlighted the importance of education, skills training, employment opportunities and access to sport and recreational programmes. In that context, the design and implementation of social policies for crime prevention with a focus on positive youth development was stressed.

69. Several speakers noted that, in order to prevent crime and recidivism among young people, emphasis should be placed on early-intervention programmes targeting at-risk groups, as well as on policies facilitating the successful socialization and integration of those who had been in conflict with the law. The use of sport was mentioned as one of the mechanisms to help young people and children become more resilient to crime. Several speakers highlighted the need for coordination between relevant actors to deal effectively with children in contact with the law and prevent recidivism. It was mentioned that victim-offender mediation was considered to be an effective element of restorative justice in terms of preventing reoffending by young people.

70. The view was widely held that evidence-based policies and programmes were required to effectively address risk factors of crime, and speakers emphasized the need for data and information on crime as well as the need to measure the impact of crime prevention programmes. In that regard, some speakers indicated the need for more knowledge of the effects of different interventions, including those that promoted social, economic and educational well-being but were not specifically aimed at preventing crime.

71. A number of speakers pointed to the need to involve communities and local organizations in efforts to address crime, including organized crime, and the role that local authorities could play in the development and implementation of crime prevention strategies, including by tailoring interventions to the local context.

72. Several speakers mentioned efforts to strengthen trust between security actors and communities and the need to promote police interaction with citizens, including through community-oriented policing. Reference was made to national experiences, such as establishing crime prevention networks that encompassed local government, residents, companies and other stakeholders. Stakeholders in those networks actively exchanged information and supported voluntary crime prevention activities, such as community-based patrols.

73. The need for effective prevention of violence against women and girls and of domestic violence was discussed by several speakers. Speakers reported on reducing barriers to the reporting of sexual offences and domestic violence to reduce the gap between the number of reported and unreported incidents of such offences, as well as the need to support victims of violence and provide access to relevant services.

74. With regard to violence against children, several speakers underlined the importance of adequate protection services. The need to address online child abuse in particular was mentioned.

## **B. Integrated approaches to challenges facing the criminal justice system**

### **Proceedings**

75. At its 10th and 11th plenary meetings, on 10 March 2021, the Congress considered agenda item 4, entitled “Integrated approaches to challenges facing the criminal justice system”. For its consideration of the item, the Congress had before it the following documents:

(a) Working paper prepared by the Secretariat on integrated approaches to challenges facing the criminal justice system ([A/CONF.234/5](#));

(b) Working paper prepared by the Secretariat on developments regarding crime prevention and criminal justice as a result of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic ([A/CONF.234/15](#));

(c) Discussion guide for the Fourteenth Congress ([A/CONF.234/PM.1](#)).

76. The 10th plenary meeting was chaired by Alessandro Cortese (Italy). A representative of the Secretariat introduced the agenda item, and a summary of the conclusions of workshop 2, on the topic “Reducing reoffending: identifying risks and developing solutions”, was presented by the moderator of that workshop. Statements were made by the representatives of Japan, Canada, China, Thailand, the United States, Indonesia, Viet Nam, Argentina, Colombia, South Africa, Morocco, Armenia, Finland and Honduras. Statements were also made by the observers for Dominicans for Justice and Peace and the International Drug Policy Consortium.

77. The 11th plenary meeting was chaired by Robinson Njeru Githae (Kenya). A statement was made by the representative of Mexico. A statement was also made by the observer for the International Association of Lawyers.

### **General discussion**

78. Several speakers emphasized that, in order to successfully address the emerging and complex challenges faced by national criminal justice systems, including during the COVID-19 pandemic, and to successfully achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, it was crucial for the various actors of the criminal justice chain to adopt a collaborative and integrated approach. It was stressed that such integration should build upon a culture of collaboration, an effective information-sharing system and

comprehensive and holistic coordination involving all the different parts of the criminal justice chain. Reference was made by several speakers to ways and means of fostering such an integrated approach, including facilitating dialogue and collaboration among relevant criminal justice agencies, providing training and capacity-building activities, establishing task forces and promoting – as professionals within all sectors of the criminal justice system – the participation of women, minorities and members of other marginalized groups.

79. A number of speakers recognized the importance of establishing a collaborative relationship between the criminal justice system and other relevant sectors of society. Several speakers presented national examples of specific collaborative initiatives between the criminal justice system and other sectors of society, including the private sector, non-profit organizations and communities, including through community-based volunteerism. Specific mention was made in that regard of national partnerships to foster the reintegration of parolees and probationers into their communities and to reduce reoffending. The importance of comprehensive and coordinated action was noted.

80. Several speakers shared information on national legislative and institutional reforms, including the revision of relevant legislation, the modernization of criminal justice agencies and the establishment of new public bodies, aimed at more integration within the criminal justice system and more effectiveness in the delivery of justice. Examples were provided of innovative national approaches, such as the establishment of itinerant rapid-deployment units that could arrive promptly at crime scenes, which were improving the response to the serious and complex challenges posed by criminality, in particular in the most remote areas of the national territory.

81. Several speakers reaffirmed the importance of addressing gender-based violence, particularly in the light of the increase in domestic violence reported during the COVID-19 pandemic, and highlighted measures taken at the national level to prevent and respond to that type of violence. Some speakers highlighted the importance of providing victims of gender-based violence, including sexual violence, with prompt access to justice and support services, including through the provision of accurate legal advice and information. The importance of linking the criminal justice system to providers of health, education, and other social services was emphasized as an important factor in ensuring that responses to gender-based violence were more efficient, effective and survivor-centred.

82. Several speakers shared national experiences in tackling violence against children, stressing that coordination between different parts of the criminal justice system was a key factor in delivering justice for children, both in situations in which children were involved as offenders and in situations in which they were involved as victims. Some speakers focused on measures taken at the national level to provide children who had become victims of violence with comprehensive and coordinated support that involved different types of services, such as medical, social and legal services, while minimizing the impact of trauma on children. Other speakers reported on national experiences in dealing with children in contact with the law. Collaboration between criminal justice agencies and social services was described as critical in that regard.

83. Several speakers noted the importance of providing support and protection for victims of crime. National experiences were shared of criminal justice systems that incorporated victim-centred and trauma-informed approaches. Several speakers mentioned types of support that should be provided to victims, namely increased access to legal aid and information, particularly for victims of sexual violence, restorative justice programmes and reparation mechanisms, for instance through legislation enabling victims to seek compensation from the State.

84. Several speakers noted the value and benefits of restorative justice programmes. It was noted that providing restorative justice at relevant stages of criminal justice proceedings could promote offender rehabilitation and victim support. Its impact on reducing reoffending and its potential to reduce overcrowding in prisons were



recalled. Reference was also made to the importance of using restorative justice programmes in cases involving children.

85. Some speakers noted that overcrowding in prisons remained a challenge. Many speakers noted that there was a need to increase the use of alternatives to imprisonment. Some speakers reported on national measures to address overcrowding in prisons, including working with the judiciary to enhance the use of non-custodial measures, amending relevant legislation and adopting a comprehensive strategy on probation. It was recalled that 2020 had marked the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders (the Bangkok Rules) and that the number of women incarcerated around the world was higher than ever. One speaker mentioned the need to release those behind bars for minor drug-related offences, especially those in vulnerable situations, such as pregnant women.

86. Many speakers highlighted the importance of rehabilitation and reintegration of offenders and shared national experiences in that regard. Several speakers noted the need for a multi-stakeholder approach in that effort, involving not only those within the criminal justice system but also those outside of it, such as in the health, education and social welfare sectors. It was said that former offenders had a diverse range of needs and that the community had an important role to play in successfully reintegrating offenders. Several speakers noted the need for practical guidance for national criminal justice systems on reducing reoffending. Some speakers, while underlining that the need to address the problem of reoffending was increasingly recognized at the international level, recommended the development of new United Nations standards and norms focused on the issue of reducing reoffending.

87. Some speakers stressed the importance of enhancing cooperation, at both the regional and international levels, as a way of responding in a more effective and integrated manner to the increasing challenges faced by national criminal justice systems. In that regard, reference was made by some speakers to initiatives taken by their countries to foster and strengthen international cooperation to address challenges posed by transnational organized crime, such as trafficking in persons, drug trafficking and money-laundering, including new and emerging forms of crime.

### **C. Multidimensional approaches by Governments to promoting the rule of law by, inter alia, providing access to justice for all; building effective, accountable, impartial and inclusive institutions; and considering social, educational and other relevant measures, including fostering a culture of lawfulness while respecting cultural identities, in line with the Doha Declaration**

#### **Proceedings**

88. At its 12th and 13th plenary meetings, on 10 and 11 March 2021, respectively, the Congress considered agenda item 5, entitled “Multidimensional approaches by Governments to promoting the rule of law by, inter alia, providing access to justice for all; building effective, accountable, impartial and inclusive institutions; and considering social, educational and other relevant measures, including fostering a culture of lawfulness while respecting cultural identities, in line with the Doha Declaration”. For its consideration of the item, the Congress had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the follow-up 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 ([A/CONF.234/12](#));

(b) Report of the Executive Director on the rule of law, crime prevention and criminal justice in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals ([A/CONF.234/13](#));

(c) Working paper prepared by the Secretariat on multidimensional approaches by Governments to promoting the rule of law by, inter alia, providing access to justice for all; building effective, accountable, impartial and inclusive institutions; and considering social, educational and other relevant measures, including fostering a culture of lawfulness while respecting cultural identities, in line with the Doha Declaration ([A/CONF.234/6](#));

(d) Background paper prepared by the Secretariat for the workshop on education and youth engagement as key to making societies resilient to crime ([A/CONF.234/10](#));

(e) Report of the Secretariat on the outcome of the expert group meeting on integrating sport into youth crime prevention and criminal justice strategies ([A/CONF.234/14](#));

(f) Working paper prepared by the Secretariat on developments regarding crime prevention and criminal justice as a result of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic ([A/CONF.234/15](#));

(g) Discussion guide for the Fourteenth Congress ([A/CONF.234/PM.1](#)).

89. The 12th plenary meeting was chaired by Jalal E.A. Alashi (Libya). A representative of the Secretariat introduced the agenda item, and a summary of the conclusions of workshop 3, on the topic “Education and youth engagement as key to making societies resilient to crime”, was presented by the Chair of that workshop. Statements were made by the representatives of Japan, China, Colombia, Thailand, the United States, Indonesia, South Africa, Viet Nam, Nigeria, Argentina, Turkey, Morocco and Bangladesh. Statements were also made by a representative of UNODC on behalf of the United Nations network on racial discrimination and protection of minorities, by the observers for the Artificial Intelligence 4 Development Agency and Soroptimist International, and by an individual expert.

90. The 13th plenary meeting was chaired by Yamauchi Yoshimitsu (Japan). Statements were made by the representatives of Canada, Israel, Mexico and Honduras.

### **General discussion**

91. Speakers noted that the rule of law was essential to the realization of safe, peaceful and secure societies in which the law was applied in an objective, impartial manner. Speakers emphasized the need to promote a culture of lawfulness that permeated society so that citizens both trusted and respected the law and criminal justice institutions. It was noted that, to achieve those goals, a multidimensional, holistic and long-lasting approach was needed that included partnerships with stakeholders, including civil society and the private sector. Many speakers emphasized that only through such an approach could Member States achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular Goal 16, which was noted as being foundational to the success of the entire 2030 Agenda.

92. To foster the rule of law and safeguard human rights, many speakers noted that a multicultural and gender-based approach was required to address issues particular to diverse populations. Addressing the needs of women, youth, the poor and other stakeholders was underlined as being fundamental to the promotion of the rule of law. The need to ensure that everyone was treated fairly, equitably and without discrimination was also underlined. Some speakers stressed the need to identify institutional needs through a scientific and data-driven process in order to strengthen the relationship between public institutions and the people.

93. Speakers highlighted the importance of preventing and countering corruption in both the public and private sectors to strengthening the rule of law, building effective, impartial and inclusive institutions and fostering integrity, transparency and accountability. In that context, some speakers highlighted the adoption of national anti-corruption, criminal justice and judicial reform strategies and reported on

progress in their implementation. Other speakers noted the benefits of using technology and promoting digitalization through e-government practices with regard to strengthening transparency and ensuring accountability. Speakers highlighted recent measures adopted to prevent corruption, including to detect and prevent conflicts of interest, to detect and prevent corruption through monitoring and oversight systems and to facilitate international cooperation.

94. With regard to the judiciary, speakers emphasized the importance of judicial integrity and transparency, including in terms of access to information, the objective assignment of cases, judicial recruitment based on merit, and oversight and accountability mechanisms. Speakers also noted that judicial independence was essential for ensuring the fair and objective adjudication of cases and upholding the rule of law. It was noted that the Global Judicial Integrity Network, supported by UNODC through the Global Programme for the Implementation of the Doha Declaration, provided a valuable platform for discussing issues of judicial integrity and independence, sharing good practices and developing materials to strengthen judiciaries worldwide.

95. In terms of criminal justice, speakers emphasized that public trust and confidence could be built through sound legal frameworks, strengthened witness and whistle-blower protection and compensation for victims of crime. Some speakers reported on measures taken to increase the capacity of law enforcement entities to better detect and investigate crime, in particular transnational organized crime such as trafficking in drugs, trafficking in persons and money-laundering.

96. Some speakers described measures taken to reform their national criminal justice systems, including the establishment of specialized units to lead reform processes, focusing in particular on the criminal justice needs of women, youth and the elderly. A number of speakers noted the value to the reform process of public participation through various public forums. Speakers identified measures to promote alternatives to incarceration, programmes that fostered vocational skills training and education, and measures to ensure the successful reintegration of previously incarcerated persons into society. The United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules), the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for Non-custodial Measures (the Tokyo Rules) and the Bangkok Rules were recalled in that regard.

97. Speakers highlighted the need to redouble efforts to ensure access to justice and the provision of legal aid, in particular for vulnerable members of society, including victims of crime, the elderly, people with disabilities, youth, stateless populations and indigenous populations, through a people-centred approach to justice, and to ensure fair and transparent due process of law. Gender-based and domestic violence were highlighted as requiring additional attention and specialized approaches. Challenges were noted, including the costs associated with providing legal assistance and extending access to justice to all parts of a country, in particular to rural areas. Some speakers shared experiences in addressing such challenges through innovative approaches to legal aid, including the establishment of specialized bodies and networks of legal aid providers and the fostering of community-based solutions to access to justice challenges. Speakers noted the benefits of partnerships with civil society, educational institutions and the private sector in such efforts. In addition, the Buenos Aires Declaration on the Implementation of the United Nations Principles and Guidelines on Access to Legal Aid in Criminal Justice Systems was recalled, in which States were called upon to strengthen international cooperation for an international legal aid network. Several speakers emphasized the importance of enhancing the provision of legal aid, including through public legal service systems, noting the importance of the United Nations Principles and Guidelines on Access to Legal Aid in Criminal Justice Systems.

98. Many speakers underlined the importance of education in terms of raising awareness and understanding of the rule of law, reducing corruption and violence, and increasing public trust in criminal justice institutions. It was noted that the rule of law

could not be strengthened without close partnerships with educational institutions. In that regard, some speakers highlighted programmes designed to involve and empower youth in public decision-making processes and policy development, and underlined the usefulness of the educational materials developed by UNODC through its Education for Justice initiative.

99. Speakers welcomed that the Kyoto Declaration placed emphasis on cooperation at the national and international levels to improve common understanding of rule of law challenges and to share good practices. Speakers acknowledged the emerging challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic, in particular in the health sector, which included the influence of large-scale organized criminal activities and the reallocation of resources from other areas to pandemic response and recovery efforts. It was noted that States might need to take account of the “new normal” during the recovery process and adjust criminal justice responses to meet new challenges in the current context.

#### **D. International cooperation and technical assistance to prevent and address all forms of crime: terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, and new and emerging forms of crime**

##### **Proceedings**

100. At its 14th and 15th plenary meetings, on 11 March 2021, and at its 16th plenary meeting, on 12 March 2021, the Congress considered agenda item 6, entitled “International cooperation and technical assistance to prevent and address all forms of crime: (a) terrorism in all its forms and manifestations; (b) new and emerging forms of crime”. For its consideration of the item, the Congress had before it the following documents:

(a) Working paper prepared by the Secretariat on international cooperation and technical assistance to prevent and address all forms of crime: terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, and new and emerging forms of crime ([A/CONF.234/7](#));

(b) Working paper prepared by the Secretariat on developments regarding crime prevention and criminal justice as a result of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic ([A/CONF.234/15](#));

(c) Discussion guide for the Fourteenth Congress ([A/CONF.234/PM.1](#)).

101. The 14th plenary meeting was chaired by Robinson Njeru Githae (Kenya). A representative of the Secretariat introduced the agenda item, and a summary of the conclusions of workshop 4, on the topic “Current crime trends, recent developments and emerging solutions, in particular new technologies as means for and tools against crime”, was presented by the Chair of that workshop. Statements were made by the representatives of Japan, Canada, China, Kuwait, Thailand, Indonesia, South Africa, Viet Nam, Singapore, France, Honduras, the Russian Federation, Cuba, El Salvador, Argentina and Italy.

102. During the 14th plenary meeting, the Congress observed a minute of silence for the victims of the great east-Japan earthquake, which had happened exactly 10 years earlier.

103. The 15th plenary meeting was chaired by Alessandro Cortese (Italy). Statements were made by the representatives of the United States, Armenia, Nigeria, Mexico, Brazil, Kyrgyzstan, Iraq, Kenya, Bangladesh, Malaysia, Turkey, Angola, Romania, India, Norway, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Azerbaijan, Algeria, Morocco and Jordan.

104. The 16th plenary meeting was chaired by Yamauchi Yoshimitsu (Japan). Statements were made by the representatives of Australia, Israel, Colombia, Nigeria and the State of Palestine. Statements were also made by the observers for the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean, the World Society of Victimology and

the International Association of Democratic Lawyers, on behalf of members of the NGO Committee on the Status of Women.

105. During the 14th meeting, the representative of the United States made a statement in exercise of the right of reply, in accordance with rule 22 of the rules of procedure. During the 15th meeting, the representatives of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Cuba and Turkey made statements in exercise of the right of reply, in accordance with rule 22 of the rules of procedure.

### **General discussion**

106. Several speakers underscored that international cooperation in criminal matters was key to combating transnational crime and terrorism in a globalized society, and conveyed support for multilateralism. Other speakers highlighted the utility of the mutual legal assistance and extradition provisions in the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the United Nations Convention against Corruption. Some speakers expressed support for the working groups on international cooperation under the conferences of the parties to those conventions as useful platforms for the exchange of good practices, and underlined the importance of the Mechanism for the Review of the Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto.

107. Some speakers highlighted the central role of technical assistance in updating legislative frameworks and in training criminal justice practitioners, and others emphasized the need for coordination among donor and recipient countries, with a view to maximizing the results of their efforts. A number of speakers expressed appreciation for the support of UNODC in the development of regional networks of criminal justice practitioners, which provided a basis for the timely exchange of information and best practices on judicial cooperation. Several speakers referred to their countries' efforts to prevent and combat trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants through international cooperation, with full respect for the rights of victims, and highlighted the challenges encountered. Reference was made to the need to create strategies for international cooperation to combat the smuggling of commercial goods. A number of speakers commended UNODC for the development of tools aimed at facilitating international cooperation among national criminal justice practitioners, such as the Sharing Electronic Resources and Laws on Crime (SHERLOC) knowledge management portal, the Directory of Competent National Authorities and the Mutual Legal Assistance Request Writer Tool.

108. Successful examples of international cooperation to counter terrorism were presented, including mutual legal assistance and information exchange at the regional level. Speakers reported on national legislation, policies and action plans adopted to prevent and counter terrorism. In particular, speakers highlighted new legislation and policies that responded to recent manifestations of terrorism, aligned existing legislation with international instruments and standards, including those relating to human rights, and integrated whole-of-society responses. Other speakers underlined the importance of international instruments in preventing and countering terrorism, making reference also to the 19 international legal instruments against terrorism.

109. Several speakers expressed growing concern about the links between terrorism and other forms of crime. References were made to the links between terrorism and environmental crime, corruption, illicit financial flows, money-laundering, trafficking in drugs, trafficking in firearms, cybercrime, trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants. Many speakers referred to measures to combat the financing of terrorism, including the development of national policies and mechanisms to implement relevant resolutions of the Security Council, as well as recommendations of the Financial Action Task Force. It was mentioned that public-private partnerships could be useful in bringing together the financial sector, regulators, law enforcement agencies and other government entities to collaboratively identify, assess and mitigate key and emerging risks related to money-laundering and the financing of terrorism. Reference was also made to the development of training programmes for law

enforcement and criminal justice officials to improve monitoring of the financing of terrorist groups.

110. Some speakers referred to the possibility of the COVID-19 pandemic having an effect on terrorist activity. Travel restrictions might have prevented terrorists from crossing borders, but the increased use of online tools for communication might have exposed more people to online radicalization and recruitment. Some speakers referred to legislative, policy and operational measures taken to identify and counter online terrorist content to prevent recruitment and radicalization to violence by means of the Internet.

111. Several speakers referred to the importance of protecting children recruited and exploited by terrorist and violent extremist groups, which they considered an integral part of a comprehensive strategy against terrorism. One speaker recommended the creation of global standards to protect children, including policies on the prevention of children being recruited or associated with terrorist groups, rehabilitation and reintegration, and justice for children.

112. Speakers conveyed the need for more coordinated international efforts to combat crimes affecting the environment, including trafficking in wildlife products, timber and precious metals and stones. They also called for coordinated efforts to tackle trafficking in falsified medical products and trafficking in cultural property. Some speakers underscored the added value of new technologies and artificial intelligence for combating organized crime, including environmental crime and money-laundering. Member States were encouraged to develop and implement domestic legal measures to protect their own cultural heritage and to recover and return unlawfully trafficked cultural property that appeared within their borders. Illegal mining was mentioned as a major threat and a priority area for international cooperation. The work of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in that field was commended, and further international cooperation was encouraged. Some speakers called for continued cooperation among international agencies such as INTERPOL and UNODC to address those forms of crime.

113. Some speakers highlighted the economic damage caused by cybercrime and the increased threats posed by organized criminal groups accessing new technologies. Some speakers welcomed the establishment, pursuant to General Assembly resolution [74/247](#), of an open-ended ad hoc intergovernmental committee of experts to elaborate a comprehensive international convention on countering the use of information and communications technologies for criminal purposes. It was underscored that a new treaty should not conflict with existing instruments. Some speakers commended the work of the Expert Group to Conduct a Comprehensive Study on Cybercrime. The need for the continuation of a forum for the exchange of experiences in preventing and combating cybercrime was underscored. Various speakers highlighted the importance of technical assistance and capacity-building and expressed appreciation for the work of the UNODC Global Programme on Cybercrime.

114. Speakers highlighted the additional burden on existing agencies and mechanisms of international cooperation in criminal matters as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. It was considered that the pandemic had exposed the most vulnerable members of the community to severe economic and social challenges, as well as to increased exploitation by criminal groups. The pandemic had also presented challenges in terms of the timely transmission of requests and logistics related to the transportation of extraditable or transferable persons.

## VI. Report of the Credentials Committee

115. At its 1st plenary meeting, on 7 March 2021, the Fourteenth Congress, in accordance with rule 4 of the rules of procedure of the Congress, appointed a Credentials Committee composed of representatives of the following States: Cameroon, Ecuador, Italy, Japan, Mongolia, Russian Federation, United Republic of

Tanzania, United States and Uruguay. At its 7th plenary meeting, on 9 March 2021, as proposed by the President, the Congress decided that Angola should be appointed as a member of the Credentials Committee to replace Cameroon, which was no longer in a position to participate in the Committee.

116. The Credentials Committee held meetings on 8, 9 and 11 March 2021.

117. Alessandro Cortese (Italy) was unanimously elected Chair of the Committee.

118. The Committee had before it a memorandum by the Secretary of the Congress, dated 11 March 2021, on the status of the credentials of representatives of States attending the Congress.

119. As indicated in paragraph 1 of that memorandum, the Committee noted that, as at 11 March 2021, credentials issued either by the Head of State or Government or by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, as provided for in rule 3 of the rules of procedure, had been submitted to the Secretary of the Congress by the following 55 States in respect of their representatives to the Fourteenth Congress: Afghanistan, Albania, Andorra, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Benin, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Chile, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Estonia, Greece, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Japan, Kenya, Kuwait, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malta, Montenegro, Morocco, Netherlands, North Macedonia, Norway, Oman, Panama, Paraguay, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Togo, Turkey, Turkmenistan, United States, Uruguay and Yemen.

120. As indicated in paragraph 2 of that memorandum, the Committee also noted that an electronic copy of credentials issued in accordance with rule 3 of the rules of procedure had been communicated to the Secretary of the Congress by the following 77 States: Algeria, Angola, Australia, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Cabo Verde, Canada, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Guatemala, Honduras, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Libya, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Namibia, Nepal, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, Uganda, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

121. As indicated in paragraph 3 of that memorandum, the Committee further noted that the following 15 States had communicated to the Secretary of the Congress information concerning the composition of their delegations to the Congress by means of facsimile or electronic communication or in the form of letters or notes verbales from their ministries, embassies, permanent missions to the United Nations or other government offices or authorities, or through local United Nations offices: Belize, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Djibouti, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Haiti, Mauritius, Mozambique, Myanmar, Rwanda, Sierra Leone and United Arab Emirates.

122. The Chair proposed that the Committee adopt the following draft resolution:

*"The Credentials Committee,*

*"Having examined the credentials of the representatives to the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, referred to in paragraphs 5, 6 and 7 of the present report,*

*"1. Accepts the credentials of the representatives of the States referred to in paragraph 5;*

“2. *Also accepts* the provisional participation of the representatives of the States referred to in paragraph 6, pending the receipt of the original of their credentials;

“3. *Further accepts* the provisional participation of the representatives of the States referred to in paragraph 7, pending the receipt of their credentials;

“4. *Decides* to defer its decision on the credentials of the representatives of Myanmar;

“5. *Recommends* that the Congress approve the report of the Credentials Committee.”

123. The draft resolution proposed by the Chair was adopted by the Committee without a vote.

124. Subsequently, the Chair proposed that the Committee recommend to the Congress the adoption of a draft resolution. The proposal was approved by the Committee without a vote.

### **Action taken by the Congress**

125. At the 16th meeting, on 12 March 2021, the Congress adopted the draft resolution entitled “Credentials of representatives to the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice”, recommended by the Credentials Committee in its report ([A/CONF.234/L.5](#), para. 12). (For the text of the resolution, see chap. I, resolution 2.)

126. At the same meeting, the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran made a statement in explanation of position after the adoption of the resolution.

### **Credentials received between 11 and 26 March 2021**

127. In addition to the States mentioned in paragraph 119 above, the following States submitted their original credentials between 11 and 26 March 2021: Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Cuba, Denmark, Ecuador, Egypt, Guatemala, Israel, Italy, Kazakhstan, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Namibia, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Republic of Korea, Romania, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Singapore, Tunisia and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

## **Chapter VII**

### **Workshops held during the Congress**

#### **A. Workshop on evidence-based crime prevention: statistics, indicators and evaluation in support of successful practices**

##### **Proceedings**

128. At its 1st meeting, on 7 March 2021, the Fourteenth Congress elected by acclamation J. Antonio Marcondes (Brazil) as Chair of Committee I. At its 1st meeting, also on 7 March, Committee I elected by acclamation Adrien Vernimmen (Belgium) as Rapporteur.

129. At its 1st to 3rd meetings, on 7 and 8 March 2021, Committee I held a general discussion on agenda item 3, entitled “Comprehensive strategies for crime prevention towards social and economic development”. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the state of crime and criminal justice worldwide ([A/CONF.234/3](#));

(b) Working paper prepared by the Secretariat on comprehensive strategies for crime prevention towards social and economic development ([A/CONF.234/4](#));



(c) Background paper prepared by the Secretariat on the workshop on evidence-based crime prevention: statistics, indicators and evaluation in support of successful practices ([A/CONF.234/8](#));

(d) Working paper prepared by the Secretariat on developments regarding crime prevention and criminal justice as a result of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic ([A/CONF.234/15](#));

(e) Discussion guide for the Fourteenth Congress ([A/CONF.234/PM.1](#));

(f) Reports of the regional preparatory meetings for the Fourteenth Congress ([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](#)).

130. Workshop 1 was organized into the following three distinct segments: (a) data and statistics; (b) research; and (c) evaluation.

131. The workshop was moderated by Yemi Kale, Statistician General of the National Bureau of Statistics of Nigeria, Angela Me, Chief of the Research and Trend Analysis Branch of UNODC, and Katharina Kayser, Chief of the Independent Evaluation Section of UNODC.

132. The following panellists participated in the three panel discussions: Adrian Franco, National Institute of Statistics and Geography of Mexico; Angela Me, UNODC; Douglas Durán, Latin American Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders; Fiona Dowsley, Department of Justice and Community Safety, Victoria, Australia; Salome Flores, Centre of Excellence for Statistical Information on Governance, Victims of Crime, Public Security and Justice of the National Institute of Statistics and Geography of Mexico; Peter Reuter, University of Maryland, United States; Quy-Toan Do, World Bank; and Adan Ruiz-Villalba, United Nations Evaluation Group. Presentations were made by the following panellists: Christina Wright, Public Safety Canada; Cristian Crespo, Undersecretariat of Crime Prevention, Chile; Karin Svanberg, Swedish National Council for Crime Prevention; and John Mathiason, Cornell University, United States.

133. The 1st, 2nd and 3rd meetings were chaired by Mr. Marcondes.

134. At the 1st meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Ecuador, Norway, Morocco, Honduras, France, Indonesia, the Philippines and Canada.

135. At the 2nd meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Italy and the United States. A statement was also made by an observer for the Asia and Far East Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders.

136. At the 3rd meeting, statements were made by the representatives of France and the Philippines. Statements were also made by the observers for the Women's Federation for World Peace International and the International Organization for Victim Assistance.

### **Chair's summary**

137. During the workshop, the paramount importance of sound and reliable evidence to better understand crime dynamics and threats and to better target crime prevention and criminal justice policies was emphasized. Accuracy, relevance, timeliness and impartiality of evidence were emphasized across the three areas of discussion (data and statistics, research and evaluation), in particular in the light of the demand for timely evidence during times of crisis, such as the COVID-19 pandemic.

138. During the first panel discussion, on data and statistics, it was emphasized that continuous investment in national crime statistics systems was important to respond to the evolving demand for data while ensuring a high level of quality. Informing crime prevention and criminal justice policies required multisectoral data and the sound interpretation thereof, as crime needed to be understood in a broader socioeconomic landscape. The national coordination of crime statistics was considered vital in that respect. The 2030 Agenda evoked the critical link between

crime and criminal justice on the one hand and social, economic and environmental development on the other. The “data revolution” was discussed as an opportunity for crime statistics to embrace new technology and non-conventional data sources such as big data in order to improve timeliness and coverage, in particular of those forms of crime that traditional sources did not measure well, such as corruption, economic crime and organized crime. The panel members highlighted that timely and transparent communication of crime data should be conducted regularly and that care should be taken to avoid stigmatizing specific population groups.

139. The discussion was focused on how best to balance the different aspects of quality of crime statistics. While the “what” and “how” were important, the “when” and “where” had become crucial in determining the usefulness of statistical information. Statistical production processes should be re-engineered in order to combine accuracy with timeliness to ensure the overall relevance of statistics. It was mentioned that crime dynamics had changed during the pandemic. For example, violence against women had become more prevalent and falsified medical products had become more of a concern, while opportunity crimes (such as property crime) had become less of a concern. In that context, it was noted that the capacity to react to new threats required that timely data be made available to decision makers. The International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes was mentioned as the cornerstone of national crime statistics systems. It ensured comparability within and between countries and provided a framework to ensure that crime data had the granularity needed to analyse crime in enough detail to inform policies.

140. The second panel discussion, on research, focused on the role of analysis and research in supporting crime prevention policies. A variety of analytical methods were discussed, and the need to adjust research methodologies to fit the appropriate context at the local, national and international levels was highlighted. At the community level, it was noted that safety audit methodology, combining quantitative and qualitative data, had the benefit of building networks of trust and support for future policy implementation and also provided a basis for prioritizing resource allocation. Challenges were identified in relation to research on organized crime, including that insufficient research had been undertaken on organized crime prevention. The development of indicators on organized crime, as well as case studies, was encouraged. In addition, it was noted that the evaluation of policies had generated important knowledge to prevent organized crime.

141. During the discussion that followed, it was highlighted that data and research were crucial in building a sound understanding of the past, without which the future could not be properly understood. It was acknowledged that the current ability to predict crime was limited, but that that capacity was not beyond reach if proper investment was made in data and the development of data analysis skills, in line with the Data Strategy of the Secretary-General for Action by Everyone, Everywhere. It was noted that crime research had the additional benefit of helping to design evidence-based policies by harnessing past experiences.

142. The third panel discussion was focused on the increasingly strategic role of evaluation in the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. Evaluation offered evidence at the local, regional and global levels to strengthen crime prevention and criminal justice efforts and respond to emerging challenges. The transformative power of evaluation was demonstrated with specific examples, including in the context of the rapid demand emerging from the COVID-19 pandemic. The need for increased investment in strong monitoring and evaluation frameworks for crime prevention strategies was discussed. It was noted that strong frameworks provided evidence of when and why interventions were effective, thereby informing future crime prevention and criminal justice programmes and strategies. Furthermore, in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals, different approaches to evaluation (from process to impact evaluations) were discussed. Emphasis was placed on measuring the results of interventions involving vulnerable populations. Particular issues relating to women and youth were also discussed. Cooperation was identified as a key enabler of success at the national and international levels, for example,

through engagement with the United Nations Evaluation Group. In addition, strengthening national evaluation capacity in the context of the 2030 Agenda was deemed essential.

143. During the discussion that followed, the importance of participatory evaluation processes and the significant contribution of local communities to evaluation, research and other processes were noted. Fully engaging with communities and understanding their needs had enhanced crime prevention initiatives and provided the grounds for conducting gender-responsive and inclusive evaluations. Participants underscored the need to strengthen national monitoring and evaluation systems to ensure accountability to citizens and simultaneously strengthen trust in crime prevention policies. Finally, participants highlighted the need to increase investment in the interlinkages between evaluation, research and statistics.

144. The Chair invited participants to consider the following points raised during the discussions:

(a) Investment in crime and criminal justice statistics, analysis, research and monitoring and evaluation contributes to policies that lead to less crime and safer communities. National good practices and scientific approaches exist to support Member States in developing short- and long-term strategies for developing and maintaining a quality body of evidence on crime and criminal justice. As with other crisis situations, the COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated the need to review and strengthen the production of evidence to provide timely information;

(b) Member States are invited to consider implementing the International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes to improve the consistency and comparability of data on crime for the purpose of informing, analysing and assessing crime prevention policies;

(c) Member States are invited to continue to explore ways to produce quality data and research to monitor fast-changing crime dynamics. Member States are also invited to continue work to identify new data sources and solutions that produce timely information to respond rapidly to new threats;

(d) In line with the 2030 Agenda, Member States are encouraged to employ a multisectoral approach to producing and analysing data on crime and criminal justice. In this context, Member States may wish to consider adopting open data standards for crime statistics;

(e) Member States are encouraged to base their crime prevention and criminal justice policies on data and analysis to establish targeted action at the local, national and international levels. Innovative data collection and research methods combining both quantitative and qualitative data could aid understanding of specific features of different crimes and their economic, social and cultural contexts;

(f) Member States are invited to develop indicators on organized crime, analyse case studies and evaluate existing prevention policies;

(g) Member States are encouraged to further strengthen evaluation capacities as an essential tool for implementing crime prevention and criminal justice strategies and for measuring their effectiveness;

(h) Member States are encouraged to share best practices and lessons learned stemming from data and statistics, research and evaluation, including through new approaches to designing and implementing crime prevention and criminal justice strategies.

## **B. Workshop on reducing reoffending: identifying risks and developing solutions**

### **Proceedings**

145. At its 1st plenary meeting, on 7 March 2021, the Fourteenth Congress elected by acclamation Matti Joutsen (Finland) as Chair of Committee II. At its 1st meeting, on 8 March 2021, Committee II elected by acclamation Luigi Ripamonti (Italy) as Rapporteur.

146. At its 1st to 3rd meetings, on 8 and 9 March 2021, Committee II held a workshop on the theme “Reducing reoffending: identifying risks and developing solutions”. The Asia and Far East Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, which is part of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme network, assisted UNODC in the preparation and organization of the workshop. The Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Background paper prepared by the Secretariat for the workshop on reducing reoffending: identifying risks and developing solutions ([A/CONF.234/9](#));

(b) Working paper prepared by the Secretariat on developments regarding crime prevention and criminal justice as a result of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic ([A/CONF.234/15](#));

(c) Discussion guide for the Fourteenth Congress ([A/CONF.234/PM.1](#));

(d) Reports of the regional preparatory meetings for the Fourteenth Congress ([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](#)).

147. At the 1st meeting of Committee II, on 8 March 2021, the Chair of the Committee opened the workshop. Opening remarks were delivered by Kittipong Kittayarak of the Thailand Institute of Justice. The workshop was moderated by Seto Takeshi, Director of the Asia and Far East Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders. The keynote address was delivered by Fergus McNeill of the University of Glasgow, United Kingdom. Presentations were made by the following panellists: Vera Tkachenko, UNODC; Mariana Martin, Namibian Correctional Service; Emiliano Blanco, Latin America Chapter of the International Corrections and Prisons Association; and Heidi Bottolfs, Directorate for Correctional Services, Norway. Statements were made by the representatives of Morocco, Mexico and the Philippines. Statements were also made by the observers for the Asia and Far East Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders and the International Federation of Action by Christians for the Abolition of Torture.

148. At the 2nd meeting of Committee II, on 8 March 2021, the keynote address for the workshop was delivered by the Chair of the Committee. Presentations were made by the following panellists: Jennifer Oades, Parole Board of Canada; Jana Špero, Ministry of Justice and Public Administration of Croatia; Teresia Matheka, High Court of Kenya; and Manuel Co, Parole and Probation Administration of the Philippines. Statements were made by the representatives of Japan, Honduras, France, the Philippines and Italy.

149. At the 3rd meeting of Committee II, on 9 March 2021, presentations were made by the following panellists: Imafuku Shoji, Ministry of Justice of Japan; Sodiqa Williams, Safer Foundation; Olivia Rope, Penal Reform International; Ali Reunanen, Criminals Return into Society (KRIS); and Maria Cristina Mattei, Hedayah. Statements were made by the representatives of Canada, Japan, the United States and China.

### **Chair’s summary**

150. During the opening remarks, the importance of employing a holistic approach to reducing reoffending, including through multi-stakeholder cooperation, was

stressed. The keynote speaker, in his opening of the first panel discussion, on creating rehabilitative prison environments, emphasized the principle of proportionality that should guide interventions aimed at the personal, judicial, moral and social rehabilitation of offenders. He recalled the importance of evaluating interventions, including the offenders' perspectives of them, with the aim of identifying barriers to reintegration. He noted that the most vulnerable populations suffered the most as a result of the State's failure to prevent reoffending. He concluded with the suggestion that criminal justice systems should be assessed by their ability to enable social reintegration.

151. The first panellist highlighted the alarming rates of prison overcrowding in the world, identified measures that contributed to creating rehabilitative prison environments and shared the experiences of Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan. The second panellist shared the Namibian experience in applying the "risk-need-responsivity" model, which demonstrated potential for reducing reoffending. The third panellist discussed corruption in prisons as a major obstacle to rehabilitation efforts and the experience of Argentina in reducing corruption and the risk of corruption in prisons, including through the enhancement of the status of prison staff and integrity training. The fourth panellist shared the Norwegian experience in adopting the "principle of normality" in prison administration, by promoting continuity of service and community participation, and other efforts that increased the quality of life of prisoners.

152. During the discussion, several speakers highlighted the importance of establishing legislation and using non-custodial measures, combined with efforts to raise awareness of the benefits of such measures among criminal justice practitioners and the wider public. Some speakers shared national examples of rehabilitation programmes in prisons and described the health, educational and vocational training components of those programmes. One speaker noted that Governments must keep detailed statistics in order to measure and monitor reoffending.

153. The second panel discussion, on community-based approaches that support desistance, began with a keynote speech in which it was emphasized that community-based approaches were less costly and often more effective than imprisonment in supporting desistance. It was noted that community-based approaches could strengthen implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, for example, through improved access to social services, education and employment and through reduced social inequality.

154. During the first presentation, experience with the use of community-based approaches to reduce reoffending in Canada was shared, and the fundamental importance of effective partnerships within and outside the criminal justice system was stressed. The role of the parole board in Canada in reviewing the conditional release of offenders was also outlined. The second presentation covered the Croatian experience in creating a professional probation system, which had significantly increased the use of non-custodial measures and reduced the prison population since its establishment in 2009. The promotion of the concept, benefits and results of probation were mentioned as critical to its expanded use. In the third presentation, the panel heard about the judiciary-driven multi-agency approach in Kenya in cases involving children, which had led to more children benefiting from non-custodial measures and to reduced pretrial detention, increased provision of counselling and successful diversion from the criminal justice system. The focus of the fourth presentation was the *barangay* (village) justice system of the Philippines, under which the smallest unit of local government facilitated access to justice through restorative justice. Information was also shared on the parole and probation administration in that country.

155. During the discussion, many speakers highlighted that having a wide range of community-based approaches was effective in rehabilitating and reintegrating offenders. One speaker noted the efficacy of using community probation volunteers as a measure to involve the community and mobilize its resources in rehabilitating

offenders. One speaker stressed the need to provide systemic support for children in conflict with the law, with a strong emphasis on prevention. Speakers stressed that providing fair and effective opportunities for rehabilitation to former offenders was the most effective way of reducing reoffending and promoting public safety.

156. The third panel discussion, on a multifaceted approach to ensure continuous support and services for the rehabilitation and reintegration of offenders, began with a presentation on the Japanese experience in preventing reoffending through identifying and meeting diverse needs for rehabilitation, including housing, employment and social welfare. The second presentation covered the disproportionate impact of criminal justice policies on minority communities and highlighted the need for government and private investment in effective rehabilitation and reintegration programmes. The third presentation was focused on a gender-sensitive approach to rehabilitation, covering identified needs, common barriers and appropriate services for rehabilitating women in prisons. In the fourth presentation, the importance of providing support that met the individual needs of the offender, including by understanding the offender's history and background, was highlighted. The role of civil society in that effort was also highlighted. The fifth presentation featured the panellist organization's step-by-step monitoring and evaluation framework, called *masar* ("pathway" in Arabic), designed to help policymakers and practitioners design effective programmes for rehabilitation and reintegration.

157. During the discussion, several speakers shared their national experiences and reiterated the importance of employing a multi-stakeholder approach in reducing reoffending. It was noted that rehabilitation programmes should provide support that met individual needs, and that housing and employment opportunities were often the most critical needs of former offenders. One speaker noted the importance of collecting and maintaining detailed statistics on reoffending rates so as to inform the development of criminal justice policies. Another speaker stressed the importance of funding for community-based programmes that supported reintegration.

158. The Chair recalled that reducing reoffending was critical to building inclusive, sustainable societies as envisaged in the 2030 Agenda. He emphasized that criminal justice interventions should be in line with the principle of the least restrictive sanction and the principle of proportionality, with the aim of rehabilitating offenders in the community whenever possible, and that programmes to reduce reoffending needed to be multifaceted, involve all relevant stakeholders and ensure the necessary continuity of care within rehabilitative environments. In that context, he invited participants to consider the following points raised during the discussions:

(a) With a view to reducing reoffending, Member States should undertake to collect relevant statistics, identify the root causes of offending and reoffending, including the impact of poverty, unemployment, homelessness, discrimination and health – in particular mental health – issues, evaluate social reintegration approaches and share data, research and evaluation outcomes nationally and internationally;

(b) Member States are encouraged to develop effective interventions for the rehabilitation and social reintegration of offenders, recognizing that this is crucial to public safety and social inclusiveness, applying a realistic, step-by-step approach that considers the availability of resources and the feasibility of steps to be taken within a certain time frame, refers to experiences in other jurisdictions and explores the cost-effective use of information technology;

(c) Member States are also encouraged to apply a multi-stakeholder approach to the social reintegration of offenders, involving the public sector at both the State and local levels, the private sector, faith-based organizations, academia, volunteers and community members. Member States should seek to promote public-public and public-private partnerships, to ensure continuity of support and to help offenders to secure employment and housing and access to legal, social and medical services, as well as educational opportunities and vocational training;

(d) Acknowledging that public understanding and cooperation are key elements of the reintegration of offenders into society, Member States are invited to undertake awareness-raising activities directed at the general public, the private sector, non-governmental organizations, volunteers, employers and the family members of offenders to increase understanding of the impact of both imprisonment and non-custodial measures on victims, on the social reintegration of offenders and on public safety, and elicit public support for the community reintegration of offenders;

(e) Member States are invited to recognize the effectiveness of rehabilitative community-based interventions and ensure that a mandated, sufficiently resourced and adequately staffed public entity, such as a dedicated probation service, is in place to manage, supervise and support offenders in the community. Member States are also invited to take inspiration from successful experiences with the involvement of community volunteers who support the reintegration of offenders;

(f) Member States are encouraged to implement penal responses guided by the principle of proportionality and assessed by their ability to enable the reintegration of offenders; use imprisonment as a last resort, recognizing that the prison environment is generally less conducive to rehabilitation and social reintegration than community-based measures; make use of an adequate and innovative array of non-custodial measures as alternatives to imprisonment and to pretrial detention, building on the Tokyo Rules and the Bangkok Rules; and consider the use of gender-responsive, child-friendly and human rights-compliant restorative justice interventions, in view of their potential benefits for victims, their value for the community affected by crime and their positive impact on the social reintegration of offenders;

(g) Member States are invited to establish rehabilitative prison environments, in line with the Nelson Mandela Rules and the Bangkok Rules, by ensuring that prisoners are treated fairly, with the respect due to their inherent dignity as human beings, and supported in their personal, judicial, moral and social rehabilitation; ensuring that prisoners' lives in prison reflect life in the community; ensuring proper prison administration and case management and addressing overcrowding, poor prison conditions, violence in prisons and corruption; providing interventions, treatment programmes, education, vocational training and work that are responsive to each individual's specific risks and needs; enabling offenders to maintain their community and family ties; and ensuring the recruitment of prison staff who display an attitude supportive of the rehabilitation of offenders and investing in multidisciplinary training for staff;

(h) Member States are encouraged to tailor interventions and treatment to the needs of each offender, in particular those with specific needs, such as young people, the elderly, persons with disabilities, the poor and marginalized groups, and eliminate barriers to social reintegration;

(i) Member States are also encouraged to develop and implement specific gender-responsive rehabilitation and reintegration policies and programmes in line with the Bangkok Rules, based on research on specific barriers faced by women in their rehabilitation, such as stigmatization, and on existing good practices;

(j) In dealing with alleged offenders who are children, Member States are further encouraged to widen the use of diversion from judicial proceedings and non-custodial measures and to ensure that deprivation of liberty is used as a measure of last resort and that any action taken promotes the rehabilitation and social reintegration of the child. Multisectoral cooperation was identified as a key requirement for achieving those objectives;

(k) Member States are encouraged to share information on promising practices and consider the development, under the auspices of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and with the support of UNODC, of model strategies to reduce reoffending that reflect, among others, the good practices discussed during the workshop;

(l) Member States are also encouraged to support capacity-building efforts for criminal justice practitioners aimed at reducing reoffending and are invited to consider seeking technical assistance from UNODC, the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme network, other international and regional organizations and relevant non-governmental stakeholders.

## **C. Workshop on education and youth engagement as key to making societies resilient to crime**

### **Proceedings**

159. At its 4th to 6th meetings, on 9 and 10 March 2021, Committee I held a workshop on the theme “Education and youth engagement as key to making societies resilient to crime”. The United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute assisted UNODC in the preparation and organization of the workshop. The Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Working paper prepared by the Secretariat on multidimensional approaches by Governments to promoting the rule of law by, inter alia, providing access to justice for all; building effective, accountable, impartial and inclusive institutions; and considering social, educational and other relevant measures, including fostering a culture of lawfulness while respecting cultural identities, in line with the Doha Declaration ([A/CONF.234/6](#));

(b) Background paper prepared by the Secretariat for the workshop on education and youth engagement as key to making societies resilient to crime ([A/CONF.234/10](#));

(c) Discussion guide for the Fourteenth Congress ([A/CONF.234/PM.1](#));

(d) Reports of the regional preparatory meetings for the Fourteenth Congress ([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](#));

(e) Report of the Secretary-General on the follow-up 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 ([A/CONF.234/12](#));

(f) Report of the Executive Director on the rule of law, crime prevention and criminal justice in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals ([A/CONF.234/13](#));

(g) Report of the Secretariat on the outcome of the expert group meeting on integrating sport into youth crime prevention and criminal justice strategies ([A/CONF.234/14](#));

(h) Working paper prepared by the Secretariat on developments regarding crime prevention and criminal justice as a result of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic ([A/CONF.234/15](#)).

160. The workshop was moderated by Gilberto Duarte and Johannes de Haan of UNODC and Manuela Brunero, Giuseppina Maddaluno and Duccio Mazarese of the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute. Presentations were made by the following panellists: Khaled Emam, Major Group for Children and Youth and Justice Call for Rights and Development; Rahmatullah Hamdard, Hope for Education and Leadership in Afghanistan; Isadora Peixoto, Youth Ambassadors Programme, Brazil; Melissa Deehring, Qatar University College of Law; Victoria Ibiwoye, One African Child Foundation and Sustainable Development Goal Education 2030 Steering Committee, Nigeria; Kairzhan Tokushev, Anti-Corruption Agency of Kazakhstan; A.N. Ramachandra, Ministry of Education of India; Peter Ottens, YETS Foundation; Gabriela Pinheiro, Fight for Peace; Ramón Spaaij, College of Sport and Exercise Science, Victoria University, Australia; Gillian Trinidad, Child



Pose Yoga Project Philippines; and Sebastián Suito, Laboratorio de Investigación Deportiva (LidLab).

161. The 4th, 5th and 6th meetings were chaired by Mr. Marcondes (Brazil). In each of the meetings, introductory remarks were made by representatives of the Secretariat and of the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute.

162. At the 4th meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the United States, Morocco and Spain.

163. At the 5th meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the Philippines and Italy.

164. At the 6th meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Honduras and Guatemala.

### **Chair's summary**

165. The first panel discussion was focused on youth engagement. The first panellist shared best practices relating to youth initiatives on the Sustainable Development Goals and their implementation through partnerships among youth-led organizations worldwide. The speaker recommended priority actions for Member States to ensure young people's meaningful participation in implementing the 2030 Agenda and achieving Goal 16. In addition, the panellist noted the need for youth to feel part of a worldwide effort. The second panellist illustrated the experience of Hope for Education and Leadership in Afghanistan in promoting the rule of law and empowering youth in conflict areas through Model United Nations conferences. The third panellist emphasized the importance of youth participation in localizing the Sustainable Development Goals and implementing specific actions through a simple and easily accessible multi-stakeholder and public-private partnership approach.

166. During the discussion that followed, one speaker mentioned the importance of working with young people to prevent their involvement with gangs. The need for trust-building measures among law enforcement entities, relevant authorities and youth was also mentioned. It was stressed that youth participation should stem from a rights-based approach. Knowledge acquired through education was mentioned as an enabler of youth participation, which in turn contributed to preventing violence and crime. Speakers highlighted the central role of teacher training and student engagement, including in violence prevention in schools. They also highlighted that youth organizations could help translate principles into specific action. Furthermore, participants noted that the role of youth in advancing the rule of law could be enhanced by greater partnership with the private sector.

167. The second panel discussion was focused on education. The first panellist presented the experience of incorporating the UNODC Education for Justice materials into curricula at Qatar University, with an emphasis on empowerment programmes for female law students. The second panellist presented the experience of the One African Child Foundation as an example of a community-level education support hub aimed at developing sustainable solutions for education to meet the needs of beneficiaries. The third panellist illustrated the experience of the *Sanaly urpaq* project in Kazakhstan, implemented in partnership with education and anti-corruption authorities. The project was aimed at teaching local youth about the pillars of good governance and sustainable development, such as the rule of law, public participation, integrity and transparency. The fourth panellist stressed the importance of strengthening relationships between law enforcement and education experts to empower youth. He made reference to educational approaches in India as an example of the mutually reinforcing relationship between peace, justice, ethics and the 2030 Agenda.

168. During the discussion that followed, one speaker mentioned the importance of meaningfully involving youth and education professionals in the rehabilitation of juvenile offenders. Speakers stressed the need for schools to be open to innovative teaching methods. One speaker mentioned that collaborating with civil society

organizations could contribute to reaching local communities and engaging them in education and crime prevention. Speakers noted the importance of involving law enforcement and criminal justice officials, as well as civil society, in capacity-building activities aimed at incorporating the rule of law at all levels of education. It was also noted that extracurricular activities contributed to educating youth on the rule of law. Member States lacking rule of law curricula were encouraged to use existing Education for Justice materials and adapt them to their national context. Speakers pointed out that civil society could contribute to providing training to teachers and youth on rule of law issues. They also recognized the importance of teacher-training and capacity-building programmes in strengthening education on the rule of law.

169. The third panel discussion was focused on sport. The first panellist emphasized the role of sport as a socioenvironmental factor having an impact on youth social skills and resilience to crime. He stressed the significant potential of sport as a tool to create meaningful personal connections between youth and a sense of belonging, with sports coaches serving as role models. The second panellist illustrated a five-factor approach to helping youth outside formal education to reach their full potential through sport: (a) developing skills; (b) providing informal learning; (c) increasing employability; (d) providing support; and (e) fostering leadership. The third panellist presented findings on the potential of sport to prevent violent extremism by creating safe spaces, fostering group dynamics and engendering collective identity, including through coaching, mentoring and holistic youth development. The fourth panellist focused on the positive and inclusive effect that sports-based programmes had on the empowerment of women and girls in terms of, for example, self-confidence, leadership, discipline and self-awareness, which were all key to fighting discrimination and gender-based violence, as well as instilling resilience. The fifth panellist presented a case of sport contributing to community and youth resilience in local contexts through the use of Muay Thai and the creation of networks for a larger development agenda. All speakers highlighted the potential of sport to build societal recognition and personal identity and aspirations in youth, as well as social relations and socioemotional skills, and the role of sport in creating a safe and inclusive space in the community. Some speakers mentioned the importance of strengthening partnerships with the private sector to develop and implement sports-based interventions more efficiently.

170. In the discussions that followed, the importance of empowering youth to participate in the promotion of the rule of law, thereby benefiting both societies and youth, was further emphasized. The positive role of networking and experience-sharing environments, such as the Youth Forum of the Fourteenth Congress, in amplifying the voices of youth as agents of change was also highlighted. Some speakers suggested that corporate funding, including in the framework of corporate social responsibility, could be used to implement sports-based programmes for youth. Some speakers observed that public-private partnerships offered strategic opportunities in terms of research and innovation but could pose challenges related to agenda-setting and maintaining a focus on meeting the needs of the beneficiaries.

171. The Chair invited participants to consider the following points raised during the discussions:

(a) Member States are invited to promote the meaningful engagement of youth and youth organizations in crime prevention and criminal justice efforts;

(b) Member States are encouraged to consider promoting youth forums, or similar initiatives, including during the sessions of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, to familiarize young people with policymaking processes related to crime prevention, criminal justice and other aspects of the rule of law;

(c) To undertake a whole-of-society approach to promoting the rule of law, Member States are also encouraged to establish and, where appropriate, increase cooperation between the education sector and governmental authorities responsible

for crime prevention and criminal justice, including with the aim of mainstreaming gender and human rights;

(d) Pursuant to target 4.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals and General Assembly resolution [74/172](#), Member States are further encouraged to continue efforts to incorporate the rule of law into education systems, and to make use of the tools developed by the Education for Justice initiative and the expertise of the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute in designing and delivering higher education programmes;

(e) Member States are encouraged to increase efforts with regard to teacher-training and capacity-building programmes, including in the establishment of partnerships between the education and criminal justice sectors;

(f) Partnerships with civil society organizations, the private sector and youth-led organizations, especially in non-formal and informal education, and sports-based programmes for youth, are suggested to Member States as an important practice to increase the reach of rule of law education;

(g) Member States are encouraged to use student-led and peer-to-peer programmes in education and sport to promote youth engagement and crime prevention and to translate principles into specific action;

(h) Pursuant to General Assembly resolution [74/170](#), Member States are also encouraged to integrate sport into youth crime prevention and criminal justice frameworks in the context of the 2030 Agenda and the United Nations Action Plan on Sport for Development and Peace;

(i) Member States are further encouraged to use sport as a tool for youth empowerment and to build individual and community resilience to violence and crime, support healthy development and build peaceful, just and inclusive societies;

(j) Member States and relevant international organizations, including UNODC and the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute, are invited to raise awareness of the social and developmental benefits of sport and sports-based programmes in the context of crime prevention, including by sharing data and good practices on the impact of such programmes;

(k) Member States are encouraged to remain seized of the topics of education, youth engagement and sport at the sessions of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.

#### **D. Workshop on current crime trends, recent developments and emerging solutions, in particular new technologies as means for and tools against crime**

##### **Proceedings**

172. At its 4th to 6th meetings, on 10 and 11 March 2021, Committee II held a workshop on current crime trends, recent developments and emerging solutions, in particular new technologies as means for and tools against crime. The Korean Institute of Criminology and the National Institute of Justice of the Department of Justice of the United States, both members of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme network, assisted UNODC in the preparation and organization of the workshop. The Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Background paper prepared by the Secretariat for the workshop on current crime trends, recent developments and emerging solutions, in particular new technologies as means for and tools against crime ([A/CONF.234/11](#));

(b) Working paper prepared by the Secretariat on developments regarding crime prevention and criminal justice as a result of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic ([A/CONF.234/15](#));

(c) Discussion guide for the Fourteenth Congress ([A/CONF.234/PM.1](#));

(d) Reports of the regional preparatory meetings for the Fourteenth Congress ([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](#)).

173. The three sessions of the workshop were moderated by the following experts, respectively: Phelan Wyrick, Director, Research and Evaluation Division, National Institute of Justice; Han-kyun Kim, Senior Research Fellow, Korean Institute of Criminology; and Dimosthenis Chrysikos, Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Officer, UNODC.

174. At the 4th meeting of Committee II, the Chair of the Committee made an introductory statement. The following panellists discussed cryptocurrencies and darknet markets, as well as technology-related issues in the field of firearms: Anthony Teelucksingh, Department of Justice of the United States, as keynote speaker; Hayato Shigekawa, Chainalysis; Thomas Holt, Michigan State University, United States; José Romero Morgaz, European Commission; Anna Alvazzi del Frate, Alliance of NGOs on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice; and María Jiménez Victorio, Civil Guard, Spain.

175. Statements were made by the representatives of the Russian Federation, the United States, Morocco, France, Mexico, Indonesia and China.

176. At the 5th meeting of Committee II, the panel discussion on the use of technology and trafficking in persons, smuggling of migrants and child abuse and exploitation was led by the following panellists: Douglas Durán, Latin American Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, as keynote speaker; Jo Harlos and Amber Hawkes, Facebook; Phiset Sa-ardyen, Thailand Institute of Justice; Michele LeVoy, Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants; Jane Annear, Department of Home Affairs, Australia; and Irakli Beridze, United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute.

177. Statements were made by the representatives of Italy, the Philippines and Brazil.

178. At the 6th meeting of Committee II, the panel discussion on artificial intelligence and robotics, ethical considerations and international cooperation in criminal matters was led by the following panellists: Cheol-kyu Hwang, International Association of Prosecutors, as keynote speaker; Roderic Broadhurst, Australian National University; Irakli Beridze, United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute; Luciano Kuppens, INTERPOL; Arisa Ema, University of Tokyo; Taegyung Gahng, Korean Institute of Criminology; Danka Hržina, Municipal Attorney's Office, Croatia; and Frances Chang, Department of Justice, United States.

179. Statements were made by the representatives of Canada and Argentina. A statement was also made by the representative of the Asia and Far East Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders.

### **Chair's summary**

180. The first panel discussion began with a keynote speech emphasizing that, despite their legitimate use, cryptocurrencies and other encryption technologies presented challenges to the investigation of online offences. Moreover, criminals continued to use virtual assets to move and conceal illicit funds, in particular in jurisdictions lacking anti-money-laundering requirements. One panellist highlighted the substantial increase in research over the past two decades relating to illicit market operations online, with a more recent focus on drug-related cryptomarkets. Recent evidence suggested that an underground economy had developed around identity theft and the sale of stolen data. Reference was made by two panellists to notable successes in coordinated takedowns of darknet markets. Other panellists referred to the spread of the additive manufacturing (3D printing) of firearms; the technology used to hide weapons, evade security controls and facilitate the transportation of firearms; and the threat of "hybrid firearms".

181. In the ensuing discussion, several speakers provided updates on their countries' preventive measures, good practices and legislative reform efforts in response to various challenges posed by the criminal misuse of information and communications technologies. Several speakers emphasized the importance of specialized cybercrime structures within prosecutorial and law enforcement authorities. Emphasis was placed on the need for focused training of competent authorities. A number of speakers echoed the need for inter-agency coordination and public-private partnerships in response to cybercrime challenges. It was noted that the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms, especially the right to privacy, needed to be taken into consideration in the prevention and investigation of cybercrime.

182. A number of speakers highlighted the importance of strengthening cooperation between national authorities and communication service providers to ensure the preservation of, and access to, data and facilitate timely responses to cybercrime cases. Some speakers welcomed the establishment, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 74/247, of an open-ended ad hoc intergovernmental committee of experts to elaborate a comprehensive international convention on countering the use of information and communications technologies for criminal purposes.

183. It was noted that existing multilateral legal instruments, such as the Organized Crime Convention and the Council of Europe Convention on Cybercrime, were the foundation of effective international cooperation in preventing and combating cybercrime.

184. Some speakers highlighted the added value of the Expert Group to Conduct a Comprehensive Study on Cybercrime – or a separate track within the UNODC framework in the future, with due regard to the need for avoiding duplication – as a platform for the exchange of information on national and international responses to cybercrime.

185. During the second panel discussion, the keynote speaker and panellists noted that, while the rapid use of digital technologies worldwide had provided significant benefits to society, new opportunities for exploitation in relation to trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants had emerged through the use of the Internet and of social media and online gaming sites. The COVID-19 pandemic had exacerbated related criminal threats. One panellist highlighted that technology could be harnessed to improve gender-based responses, including by supporting remote investigations to reduce secondary victimization. Tracking illicit financial flows could be another way in which technology (such as blockchain and artificial intelligence) could support policies to combat trafficking in persons.

186. Two panellists referred to their company's approaches to online safety through prevention (safety notices and removing accounts used to engage in potentially inappropriate interactions with children), detection (harmful content reduction, proactive detection and network disruption) and related responses (blocking fake accounts, collaborating with law enforcement authorities and establishing help centres to report content related to trafficking in persons). Another panellist expressed the need for caution with regard to the growing use of digital technologies in the field of border control and immigration. Two panellists referred to the emerging threat of the commissioning of live-streamed child sexual abuse.

187. In the ensuing discussion, multi-stakeholder strategies were identified by a number of speakers as a vital preventive element in the fight against cybercrime. One speaker spoke in favour of collaboration with national immigration authorities and international organizations to gain a better understanding of the online *modi operandi* of trafficking in persons networks.

188. The third panel discussion started with a keynote speech in which reference was made to the advantages of combining artificial intelligence with direct communication with the authorities responsible for international cooperation in criminal matters. One panellist examined the role of the transparent use of artificial intelligence in judicial decision-making, as well as in forensic analysis,

intelligence-led policing models and existing surveillance systems. Another panellist referred to the Centre for Artificial Intelligence and Robotics, which had been established within the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute with the aim of improving the knowledge of both the risks and benefits of such technologies. Another panellist presented the work of the INTERPOL Innovation Centre, which was aimed at assisting law enforcement authorities in keeping pace with innovative policing issues.

189. Two panellists discussed ethical considerations in the use of artificial intelligence. One of them noted that academia could play an important role in research and in education for researchers and practitioners. The other panellist underlined the potential conflict between the use of big data and artificial intelligence to predict crime and human rights. Related ethics guidelines were therefore necessary to ensure efficient oversight, compliance with due process, fairness, non-discrimination and accountability. One panellist referred to challenges and lessons learned from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on international cooperation in criminal matters, with reference to adaptation and the use of innovative approaches (electronic transmission of requests, videoconferencing, strengthening of direct communication and judicial networks). Another panellist underlined the importance of fully equipped and empowered central authorities, citing as good practices the posting abroad of law enforcement and judicial attachés and the use of law enforcement channels prior to the submission of mutual legal assistance requests.

190. In the ensuing discussion, speakers reiterated the importance of strengthening international cooperation, including through the use of liaison magistrates. One speaker referred to examples of constantly evolving technological tools in national investigations. Another speaker asked whether there were cases in which the issue of the admissibility and credibility of data obtained through artificial intelligence had been raised. In response, it was noted that the issue would be considered in the future and that tools for such consideration existed in domestic laws and multilateral instruments (in provisions on the use of special investigative techniques and conditions for such use).

191. Further support was expressed for the UNODC Global Programme on Cybercrime, as well as the tools developed by UNODC, such as the SHERLOC knowledge management portal, the Directory of Competent National Authorities, the *Practical Guide for Requesting Electronic Evidence Across Borders* and the Mutual Legal Assistance Request Writer Tool.

192. The Chair invited participants to consider the following points raised during the discussions:

(a) Combining geographical insights from cryptocurrencies with on-chain data reveals trends that mirror findings also reported in the “mainstream” drug trafficking market. However, more knowledge is required on how darknet market operations intersect. For better operational results, law enforcement authorities should develop synergies with various stakeholders, including the private sector and security researchers, with a view to supporting online investigations;

(b) Member States should assess the need for a policy on the possession of and trafficking in blueprints for 3D printing that could enable the illicit manufacture of essential components of firearms;

(c) Support was expressed for the application of new technologies to the marking of firearms, record-keeping, tracing and the destruction of designated arms. There is a need to keep pace with technological developments, which may apply to multiple areas, to prevent the unlicensed production of firearms, their illicit conversion and reactivation, diversion practices and online trafficking in firearms;

(d) Consideration should be given to the adoption of new technologies for stockpile management and security in the field of firearms, as well as to the use of new technologies for inventory management and the monitoring and protection of weapons in transit;

(e) Member States should prevent corruption and increase transparency mechanisms, building on the important role of industry, academia and civil society organizations, with regard to firearms and technology-related security threats, for example, through increased cross-checking of databases, the use of big data and of new technologies for improved security of digital documents, and transparency in authorized trade;

(f) Anonymous reporting of trafficking in persons and the submission of electronic evidence by citizens by means of mobile telephone or Internet platforms could be promoted to facilitate the work of authorities with limited numbers of staff and resources;

(g) Cloud-based technology, big data and artificial intelligence could improve technical capabilities for more effective and coordinated policy responses to trafficking in persons at the national and international levels;

(h) Member States should closely review the implications for at-risk groups of the use of technology in policing and immigration control and develop clear guidelines and ensure transparency in the use of technology in the context of immigration enforcement, while creating accessible means for challenging its misuse;

(i) Member States should ensure that legislative frameworks sufficiently cover live-streamed child sexual abuse. There is also a need to further analyse how national data and intelligence can be utilized to detect indicators of live-streamed abuse and a need to engage with the digital industry and the financial sector to identify means for proactively detecting live-streamed abuse and ensure the reporting thereof to law enforcement authorities;

(j) Member States should ensure that legal frameworks keep pace with technological developments, including in relation to artificial intelligence, and should seek to streamline international cooperation in criminal matters through the use of technology and innovative tools by practitioners and central authorities that are equipped and empowered to fully benefit from such technology and tools;

(k) Member States are encouraged to monitor and understand the risks posed by the malicious use of artificial intelligence technologies to ensure accountability and integrity, promote ethical standards in the use of these technologies and secure the confidence and trust of citizens and communities in the application of new technologies.

## Chapter VIII

### Special events

193. As part of the Fourteenth Congress, UNODC, in cooperation with other stakeholders, organized 13 special events between 7 and 10 March 2021.

### Summary

194. On 7 March 2021, UNODC, in partnership with Qatar, organized a special event entitled “Promoting the rule of law and justice: innovative implementation of the Doha Declaration towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals”. The event was moderated by the Director of the Division for Treaty Affairs of UNODC, and opening statements were made by the President of the General Assembly at its seventy-fifth session, the Executive Director of UNODC, the Minister of Justice of Japan and the Adviser to the Prime Minister and the Minister of the Interior of Qatar, introduced by the Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Qatar to the United Nations (Vienna). Panellists including the Minister of Home Affairs, Immigration, Safety and Security of Namibia and the Minister of Public Education of Uzbekistan, as well as representatives of UNESCO and the Advisory

Board of the UNODC Global Judicial Integrity Network and youth representatives, shared the achievements of the Global Programme for the Implementation of the Doha Declaration and its innovative practices in promoting the rule of law, as well as efforts to implement the Doha Declaration at the national, regional and international levels.

195. On 8 March 2021, a special event on women's empowerment and the advancement of justice was organized in celebration of International Women's Day. The Minister of Justice of Japan, the State Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan, the Executive Director of UNODC and the Deputy Executive Director of UN-Women made statements. They were followed by a special appearance by Nishikawa Kiyoshi and Helen, a celebrity couple from Japan, who shared their perspectives on marginalization and hardship as causes of crime and harm. The event ended with a panel discussion with the Parliamentary Deputy Minister of Defence of Japan, the President of Sophia University, Japan, the Chief Executive Officer of Accept International and the Director of the Division for Operations of UNODC. They advocated a tolerant society and highlighted the importance of women's perspectives in promoting change.

196. On the same day, the Division for Policy Analysis and Public Affairs of UNODC organized a special event to mark 10 years since the inception of the United Nations voluntary trust fund for victims of trafficking in persons, especially women and children, and to reflect on achievements and best practices. The special event was chaired by the Chair of the Board of Trustees of the trust fund. An opening statement was made by the Executive Director of UNODC. Statements were made by panellists from Belgium, France and Sweden and presentations were made by representatives of front-line non-governmental organizations from Ghana and India.

197. Also on the same day, the Corruption and Economic Crime Branch, the Global Programme for Combating Wildlife and Forest Crime and the Research and Trend Analysis Branch of UNODC organized a special event on addressing corruption linked to wildlife, forest and fisheries crime. The Executive Director of UNODC provided welcoming remarks. The opening statement, delivered by the Chair of United for Wildlife, was followed by a discussion moderated by Princess Laurentien of the Netherlands, with panellists from Angola and Kenya and the Virunga National Park in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Subsequently, representatives of the Governments of Belgium, France, Kenya, Palau, Peru and the United States and representatives of two civil society organizations, the Wildlife Justice Commission and the World Wide Fund for Nature, reiterated the importance of addressing corruption to prevent wildlife, forest and fisheries crime. Closing remarks were provided by Jane Goodall.

198. Also on 8 March 2021, UNODC organized a special event on the gender dimensions of criminal justice responses to terrorism. The panel leading the discussion comprised the Executive Director of UNODC, the Minister of Justice of Nigeria, the Counter-Terrorism Coordinator of Sweden, the Chairperson of the Senate Committee on Women and Gender Equality of Uzbekistan, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict and the Director of the Women Empowerment Organization and Coordinator of the Iraq Cross Sector Task Force on implementation of Security Council resolution [1325 \(2000\)](#). The event was moderated by the Chief of the Terrorism Prevention Branch of UNODC. The panellists discussed trends regarding women's participation in terrorist groups, efforts to prosecute terrorists responsible for sexual and gender-based violence, approaches to adopting gender-sensitive measures to prevent terrorism and violent extremism, and the importance of increasing the role of women in those efforts.

199. On 9 March 2021, UNODC organized a special event on urban safety governance to discuss inclusive, multisectoral approaches and strategies to improve the safety and governance of cities. The special event was moderated by the Director of the Division for Policy Analysis and Public Affairs. An opening statement was made by the Executive Director of UNODC. Presentations were made by local and national government officials from Oakland, United States, Mexico City, Nairobi and



Tashkent. A presentation was also made by the United Nations Resident Coordinator for Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean. Statements were made by the Assistant Vice-Minister of Justice of Japan and the Executive Director of UN-Habitat. The panellists stated that an urban safety governance approach was crucial to strengthening multi-level urban resilience and community safety.

200. On the same day, the Global Programme for Strengthening the Capacities of Member States to Prevent and Combat Organized and Serious Crime organized a special event on the launch of the South-East Asia Justice Network and promotion of international cooperation in criminal matters through judicial cooperation networks. The special event was chaired by a representative of UNODC and moderated by the Director General of the International Affairs Department of the Office of the Attorney General of Thailand. An opening statement was made by the Executive Director of UNODC. Presentations were made by the Prosecutor General of Egypt, representing the Africa Prosecutors Association, the Prosecutor General of Spain, representing the Ibero-American Association of Public Prosecutors, the Secretary of the European Judicial Network, the Secretary-General of the Ibero-American Network for International Legal Cooperation, the Deputy Attorneys General of Singapore and Thailand, the Secretary of Justice of the Philippines and senior government representatives from the Gambia, Ghana and Kyrgyzstan.

201. Also on the same day, UNODC, in partnership with the Office of the Federal Public Defender of Argentina, UNDP, UN-Women, the International Development Law Organization, the Pathfinders for Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies and the International Association of Lawyers, organized a special event on equal access to justice for all. The event was moderated by the Chief of the Justice Section of the Division for Operations, and an opening statement was made by the Executive Director of UNODC. High-level representatives and experts from Member States in Europe, Africa, Latin America, the Caribbean and Asia, the Chair of the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent and a representative of an international organization discussed challenges and shared good practices by Governments and practitioners to ensure equal access to justice without discrimination for those suspected or accused of committing a crime and for victims of crime, including when addressing the impact of COVID-19, with a focus on groups with specific rights and needs.

202. Also on 9 March 2021, UNODC and INTERPOL organized a special event on rethinking responses to crime and harm perpetrated by and against young people and how to engage citizens to promote peace and development. The event was co-hosted by the Director of the Division for Operations and the Executive Director of Police Services of INTERPOL, and the opening keynote address was delivered by Nobel Peace Prize laureate Kailash Satyarthi. In a panel discussion, the eSafety Commissioner of Australia, the United Nations Resident Coordinator for China, the Executive Director of the Wahid Foundation, a professor from Aoyama Gakuin University, Japan, and the Chief Executive Officer of Accept International discussed the need to introduce fresh thinking to transform traditional ways of responding to crime and harm perpetrated by and against young people. Panellists exchanged views on the need to foster more effective cooperation between the public and private sectors to achieve synergistic responses to crime and harm through a “spectrum” approach of interventions.

203. A special event entitled “The impact of COVID-19 in prisons: mitigating risks and building back better”, organized in coordination with the Vienna-based Group of Friends of the Nelson Mandela Rules, was held on 10 March 2021. The event was opened by the Director of the Division for Operations, who delivered a statement on behalf of the Executive Director of UNODC. Keynote statements were made by the Minister of Law and Human Rights of Indonesia, the Deputy Minister of Correctional Services of South Africa, the Director-General of the Correction Bureau of Japan, the President of the International Corrections and Prisons Association and the Head of the Detention Unit of the International Committee of the Red Cross. Speakers reiterated their concern about the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on those

living and working in prisons and agreed that the pandemic had brought chronic and long-standing prison deficiencies into the spotlight. Renewed efforts to strengthen compliance with international minimum prison standards while addressing the root causes of overincarceration and overcrowding were highlighted as priorities for future reform strategies.

204. On 10 March 2021, UNODC organized a special event on safeguarding sport from corruption and crime, aimed at raising awareness about the threats posed by corruption and crime to sport, as well as highlighting and proposing initiatives on how to overcome them. Moderated by the Chief of the Corruption and Economic Crime Branch of UNODC, the event included statements by the Executive Director of UNODC, high-level representatives of Australia, Italy, Qatar and the Russian Federation and the Presidents of the International Olympic Committee and the Fédération Internationale de Football Association.

205. On the same day, UNODC, together with the Governments of Austria, Indonesia and Japan and the European Union, sponsored a special event on the UNODC road map on the treatment of children associated with terrorist and violent extremist groups. An opening statement was made by the Director of the Division for Operations. Presentations were made by the Ambassador in charge of International Cooperation for Countering Terrorism and International Organized Crime of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, the Head of the Service for Foreign Policy Instruments of the European Commission, the Deputy Head of International Cooperation of the National Counter-Terrorism Agency of Indonesia, the President of the Supreme Judicial Council and Chief of the Federal Court of Cassation of Iraq, the Coordinator of the Counter-Terrorism Centre of the Office of the National Security Adviser of Nigeria, the Head of the Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism Unit in the Counter-Terrorism Centre of the Office of the National Security Adviser of Nigeria and the Ambassador-at-Large of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan.

206. Also on 10 March 2021, the Strategic Planning and Inter-Agency Affairs Unit of UNODC organized a special event entitled “Youth and the rule of law: effective agents of change”. The event focused on the engagement of youth in policy discussions on crime prevention, criminal justice and the rule of law. The event was moderated by a Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Officer from UNODC. An opening statement was made by the Executive Secretary of the Fourteenth Congress. The Envoy of the Secretary-General on Youth also made introductory remarks. Presentations were given by parliamentarians from Brazil, Japan and Kenya and youth representatives from MUN Impact and the Youth Forum of the Fourteenth Congress. Participants stressed the importance of providing a regular forum for youth to engage in global policy discussions on strengthening the rule of law.

## Chapter IX

### Adoption of the report of the Congress and closure of the Congress

207. At its 16th plenary meeting, on 12 March 2021, the Congress approved the reports, as orally amended, of Committee I, Committee II and the Credentials Committee, which were presented by their respective Chairs and contained in documents [A/CONF.234/L.3](#) and [A/CONF.234/L.3/Add.1](#), [A/CONF.234/L.4](#) and [A/CONF.234/L.4/Add.1](#), and [A/CONF.234/L.5](#). At the same meeting, the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran made a statement.

208. At the 17th plenary meeting, on 12 March 2021, which was chaired by Hikihara Takeshi (Japan), the Congress considered and adopted, as orally amended, the draft reports contained in documents [A/CONF.234/L.2](#), [A/CONF.234/L.2/Add.1](#), [A/CONF.234/L.2/Add.2](#), [A/CONF.234/L.2/Add.3](#), [A/CONF.234/L.2/Add.4](#) and [A/CONF.234/L.2/Add.5](#), which had been prepared by the Rapporteur-General

pursuant to rule 52 of the rules of procedure, as well as the summary of the special events contained in document [A/CONF.234/L.7](#). After the adoption of the draft reports, an excerpt from a video prepared by International Anti-Corruption Academy, the Asia Crime Prevention Foundation, the United Nations Studies Association and the International Association for the Advancement of Innovative Approaches to Global Challenges was shown. The full version of the video was posted on the UNODC website.

209. At the closing session of the Congress, on 12 March 2021, a video on the Fourteenth Congress, prepared by UNODC, was shown.

210. Also at the closing session, the Secretary-General of the Fourteenth Congress and Executive Director of UNODC recalled that, in the Kyoto Declaration, Member States had acknowledged the urgent need to enhance capacities, underlined the importance of multi-stakeholder partnerships and called for integrated solutions to, inter alia, confront the economic dimension of crime, mainstream gender into their programmes and empower youth, prevent terrorism and tackle new, emerging and evolving forms of crime. She highlighted that the Congress had brought together 5,600 participants in a hybrid format, despite challenging global circumstances, and offered the support of UNODC in translating the Kyoto Declaration into action at the thirtieth session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, to be held in Vienna in May 2021.

211. The President of the Congress highlighted, at the closing session of the Congress, that the COVID-19 pandemic was disproportionally affecting the most vulnerable, that the rule of law and the independence of judiciaries continued to be faced with challenges, and that the rapid digitalization of society had created new risks in cyberspace. She underlined that the Sustainable Development Goals had become even more important as the fabric of society was fraying. Accordingly, the pledge of the international community to achieve the Goals had been crystallized in the Kyoto Declaration. She called for action to implement the Kyoto Declaration and to realize just, peaceful and inclusive societies in which no one was left behind. She reminded the participants that, in the Kyoto Declaration, Member States had called for multi-stakeholder partnerships, in line with Goal 17, as no Government, no community, no civil society actor and no individual could succeed alone in fighting crime, seeking justice and promoting the rule of law.

212. Statements were made by the representatives of Austria, on behalf of the Group of Western European and other States, Australia, Colombia, Israel, the United States, Mexico, the United Kingdom, the Dominican Republic, Singapore, Norway, Canada, China, France, Indonesia, Nigeria, Guatemala, the Russian Federation, Cuba, India, South Africa, Argentina, the Philippines, Switzerland and the Islamic Republic of Iran.

## Annex

## List of documents before the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice<sup>\*</sup>

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Title or description</i>
<a href="#">A/CONF.234/1/Rev.1</a>	1	Annotated provisional agenda
<a href="#">A/CONF.234/2</a>	2	Rules of procedure for United Nations congresses on crime prevention and criminal justice
<a href="#">A/CONF.234/3</a>	3	Report of the Secretary-General on the state of crime and criminal justice worldwide
<a href="#">A/CONF.234/4</a>	3	Working paper prepared by the Secretariat on comprehensive strategies for crime prevention towards social and economic development
<a href="#">A/CONF.234/5</a>	4	Working paper prepared by the Secretariat on integrated approaches to challenges facing the criminal justice system
<a href="#">A/CONF.234/6</a>	5	Working paper prepared by the Secretariat on multidimensional approaches by Governments to promoting the rule of law by, inter alia, providing access to justice for all; building effective, accountable, impartial and inclusive institutions; and considering social, educational and other relevant measures, including fostering a culture of lawfulness while respecting cultural identities, in line with the Doha Declaration
<a href="#">A/CONF.234/7</a>	6	Working paper prepared by the Secretariat on international cooperation and technical assistance to prevent and address all forms of crime: terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, and new and emerging forms of crime
<a href="#">A/CONF.234/8</a>	3	Background paper prepared by the Secretariat for workshop 1 (Evidence-based crime prevention: statistics, indicators and evaluation in support of successful practices)
<a href="#">A/CONF.234/9</a>	4	Background paper prepared by the Secretariat for workshop 2 (Reducing reoffending: identifying risks and developing solutions)
<a href="#">A/CONF.234/10</a>	5	Background paper prepared by the Secretariat for workshop 3 (Education and youth engagement as key to making societies resilient to crime)
<a href="#">A/CONF.234/11</a>	6	Background paper prepared by the Secretariat for workshop 4 (Current crime trends, recent developments and emerging solutions, in particular new technologies as means for and tools against crime)

<sup>\*</sup> In addition, the website of the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice contains position papers and written statements, as well as background documents by individual experts.

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Title or description</i>
<a href="#">A/CONF.234/12</a>	5	Report of the Secretary-General on follow-up 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
<a href="#">A/CONF.234/13</a>	5	Report of the Executive Director on the rule of law, crime prevention and criminal justice in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals
<a href="#">A/CONF.234/14</a>	3	Report of the Secretariat on the outcome of the expert group meeting on integrating sport into youth crime prevention and criminal justice strategies
<a href="#">A/CONF.234/15</a>	3–6	Working paper prepared by the Secretariat on developments regarding crime prevention and criminal justice as a result of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic
<a href="#">A/CONF.234/L.1</a>		Report of the pre-Congress consultations held at the Kyoto International Conference Center in Kyoto, Japan, on 6 March 2021
<a href="#">A/CONF.234/L.2</a>		Draft report on the background and preparations for the Congress and attendance and organization of work
<a href="#">A/CONF.234/L.2/Add.1</a>		Draft report on the high-level segment of the Congress
<a href="#">A/CONF.234/L.2/Add.2</a>	3	Draft report on comprehensive strategies for crime prevention towards social and economic development
<a href="#">A/CONF.234/L.2/Add.3</a>	4	Draft report on integrated approaches to challenges facing the criminal justice system
<a href="#">A/CONF.234/L.2/Add.4</a>	5	Draft report on multidimensional approaches by Governments to promoting the rule of law by, inter alia, providing access to justice for all; building effective, accountable, impartial and inclusive institutions; and considering social, educational and other relevant measures, including fostering a culture of lawfulness while respecting cultural identities, in line with the Doha Declaration
<a href="#">A/CONF.234/L.2/Add.5</a>	6	Draft report on international cooperation and technical assistance to prevent and address all forms of crime: terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, and new and emerging forms of crime
<a href="#">A/CONF.234/L.3</a>	3	Report of Committee I: workshop 1 (Evidence-based crime prevention: statistics, indicators and evaluation in support of successful practices)

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Title or description</i>
<a href="#">A/CONF.234/L.3/Add.1</a>	5	Report of Committee I: workshop 3 (Education and youth engagement as key to making societies resilient to crime)
<a href="#">A/CONF.234/L.4</a>	4	Report of Committee II: workshop 2 (Reducing reoffending: identifying risks and developing solutions)
<a href="#">A/CONF.234/L.4/Add.1</a>	6	Report of Committee II: workshop 4 (Current crime trends, recent developments and emerging solutions, in particular new technologies as means for and tools against crime)
<a href="#">A/CONF.234/L.5</a>	2 (e)	Report of the Credentials Committee
<a href="#">A/CONF.234/L.6</a>	3–6	Draft Kyoto declaration on advancing crime prevention, criminal justice and the rule of law: towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
<a href="#">A/CONF.234/L.7</a>		Report on special events
<a href="#">A/CONF.234/PM.1</a>		Discussion guide for the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice
<a href="#">A/CONF.234/RPM.1/1</a>		Report of the Asia and Pacific Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, held in Bangkok from 22 to 24 January 2019
<a href="#">A/CONF.234/RPM.2/1</a>		Report of the Western Asian Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, held in Beirut from 26 to 28 March 2019
<a href="#">A/CONF.234/RPM.3/1</a>		Report of the Latin American and Caribbean Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, held in Santiago from 5 to 7 February 2019
<a href="#">A/CONF.234/RPM.4/1</a>		Report of the African Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, held in Addis Ababa from 9 to 11 April 2019
<a href="#">A/CONF.234/RPM.5/1</a>		Report of the European Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, held in Vienna from 23 to 25 April 2019
<a href="#">A/CONF.234/CRP.1</a>	3–6	Statement submitted by the Government of Japan
<a href="#">A/CONF.234/CRP.2</a>	2	Organizational arrangements for the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice
<a href="#">A/CONF.234/CRP.3</a>	4	Background paper submitted by Morocco
<a href="#">A/CONF.234/CRP.4</a>	6	Background paper submitted by Morocco
<a href="#">A/CONF.234/CRP.5</a>	3–6	Background paper submitted by Morocco

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Title or description</i>
A/CONF.234/CRP.6	6	Background paper submitted by Morocco
A/CONF.234/CRP.7	5	Background paper submitted by Morocco
A/CONF.234/CRP.8	6	Background paper submitted by Morocco
A/CONF.234/CRP.9		Letter from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations (Vienna)
A/CONF.234/CRP.10	3–6	Recommendations brought to the attention of the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice by the Youth Forum
A/CONF.234/CRP.11	5	Conference room paper prepared by the Secretariat entitled “Mobilize. Engage. Empower. The voices of South-East Asian youth to promote the rule of law through education”
A/CONF.234/CRP.12	3–6	Conference room paper submitted by the Permanent Mission of Finland to the United Nations (Vienna)
A/CONF.234/NGO/1	5–6	Statement submitted by the Friends World Committee for Consultation
A/CONF.234/NGO/2	3	Statement submitted by Soroptimist International
A/CONF.234/NGO/3	4	Statement submitted by the Japan Federation of Bar Associations
A/CONF.234/NGO/4	6	Statement submitted by Socialist International Women
A/CONF.234/NGO/5	5	Statement submitted by the International Association of Lawyers
A/CONF.234/NGO/6	3	Statement submitted by the Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women
A/CONF.234/NGO/7	3	Statement submitted by the Alliance of NGOs on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice
<a href="#">A/CONF.234/INF/1/Rev.1</a>		Information for participants