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Agenda item 107

Crime prevention and criminal justice

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 19 December 2023

[*on the report of the Third Committee (A/78/482, para. 29)*]

- 78/223. Follow-up to the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and preparations for the Fifteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice**

The General Assembly,

Emphasizing the responsibility assumed by the United Nations in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice in pursuance of Economic and Social Council resolution 155 C (VII) of 13 August 1948 and General Assembly resolution 415 (V) of 1 December 1950,

Acknowledging that the United Nations congresses on crime prevention and criminal justice, as major intergovernmental forums, have influenced national policies and practices and promoted international cooperation in that field by facilitating the exchange of views and experience, mobilizing public opinion and recommending policy options at the national, regional and international levels,

Recalling its resolution 46/152 of 18 December 1991, in the annex to which Member States affirmed that the United Nations congresses on crime prevention and criminal justice should be held every five years and should provide a forum for, inter alia, the exchange of views between States, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and individual experts representing various professions and disciplines, the exchange of experiences in research, law and policy development and the identification of emerging trends and issues in crime prevention and criminal justice,

Recalling also the applicable provisions of its resolution 56/119 of 19 December 2001,

Recalling further the applicable provisions of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31 of 25 July 1996,



Recalling its resolution [57/270](#) B of 23 June 2003 on the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields, in which it stressed that all countries should promote policies consistent and coherent with the commitments of major United Nations conferences and summits, emphasized that the United Nations system had an important responsibility to assist Governments in staying fully engaged in the follow-up to and implementation of agreements and commitments reached at major United Nations conferences and summits and invited the intergovernmental bodies of the United Nations system to further promote the implementation of the outcomes of major United Nations conferences and summits,

Recalling also its resolution [76/181](#) of 16 December 2021, in which it endorsed the Kyoto Declaration on Advancing Crime Prevention, Criminal Justice and the Rule of Law: Towards the Achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted by the Fourteenth Congress, and requested the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice to review the implementation of the Kyoto Declaration under the standing item on its agenda entitled “Follow-up to the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and preparations for the Fifteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice”,

Recalling further its resolution [77/231](#) of 15 December 2022, in which it decided to hold the Fifteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in 2026, without prejudice to the timing of subsequent United Nations congresses on crime prevention and criminal justice and with a view to maintaining the five-year cycle of the congresses, in the light of the intensive follow-up process undertaken by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in the implementation of the Kyoto Declaration,

Recalling that, in its resolution [77/231](#), it requested the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice to approve at its thirty-second session the overall theme, the agenda items and the topics for the workshops of the Fifteenth Congress, recommended that, building on the experience and the success of the Fourteenth Congress, all efforts be made to ensure that the overall theme, the agenda items and the topics for the workshops of the Fifteenth Congress were interrelated and that the agenda items and workshop topics were streamlined and limited in number, and encouraged the holding of side events that were focused on and complemented the agenda items and workshops,

Recalling also its resolution [70/1](#) of 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”,

Recalling further its decisions [74/550 A](#) of 13 April 2020 and [74/550 B](#) of 12 August 2020, in which it decided to hold the Fourteenth Congress in 2021 instead of 2020 owing to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic,

Encouraged by the success of the Fourteenth Congress as one of the largest and most diverse forums for the exchange of views on and experiences in research, law and policy and programme development between States, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and individual experts representing various professions and disciplines,

Praising the Government of Japan for conducting an intensive, succinct and fruitful Fourteenth Congress, despite challenging circumstances due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and mindful of the need to constantly look for ways to further improve the work of future congresses,

Stressing the importance of undertaking all preparatory activities for the Fifteenth Congress in a timely and concerted manner,

Mindful of the Strategy for Sustainability Management in the United Nations System, 2020–2030, and best practices in the preparations for, and the organization of, the Fifteenth Congress,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the follow-up to the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and preparations for the Fifteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice,¹

1. *Reiterates its invitation* to Governments to take into consideration the Kyoto Declaration on Advancing Crime Prevention, Criminal Justice and the Rule of Law: Towards the Achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development² when formulating legislation and policy directives and to make every effort, where appropriate, to implement the principles contained therein in conformity with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations;

2. *Welcomes* the initiative of the Government of Japan to work with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, and through the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, in ensuring appropriate follow-up to the implementation of the Kyoto Declaration;

3. *Requests* the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, in accordance with its mandate, to continue implementing the appropriate policy and operational measures for the follow-up to the Kyoto Declaration, including through the holding of intersessional thematic discussions to facilitate the sharing of information, good practices and lessons learned among Member States and relevant stakeholders, subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources;

4. *Notes* the progress made thus far in the preparations for the Fifteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice;

5. *Decides* that the duration of the Fifteenth Congress should not exceed eight days, including pre-Congress consultations;

6. *Also decides* that the main theme of the Fifteenth Congress shall be “Accelerating crime prevention, criminal justice and the rule of law: protecting people and planet and achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the digital age”;

7. *Further decides* that, in accordance with its resolution [56/119](#), the Fifteenth Congress shall open with a high-level segment, at which States will be invited to be represented at the highest possible level, for example, by Heads of State or Government, government ministers or attorneys general, and that representatives will be given an opportunity to make statements on the topics of the Congress;

8. *Decides* that, in accordance with its resolution [56/119](#), the Fifteenth Congress shall adopt a single declaration, to be submitted to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice for its consideration;

9. *Also decides* that the Commission will give due consideration to the report of the Fifteenth Congress;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to encourage the participation of representatives from relevant entities of the United Nations system in the Fifteenth Congress, bearing in mind the main theme, agenda items and workshop topics of the Congress;

¹ [E/CN.15/2023/11](#).

² Resolution [76/181](#), annex.

11. *Approves* the following provisional agenda for the Fifteenth Congress, finalized by the Commission at its thirty-second session:

1. Opening of the Congress.
2. Organizational matters.
3. Advancing innovative and evidence-based crime prevention strategies towards social, economic and environmental development.
4. Promoting people-centred, inclusive and responsive criminal justice systems in a world of continuous change.
5. Addressing and countering crime – including organized crime and terrorism in all its forms and manifestations – in new, emerging and evolving forms.
6. Working better together to elevate cooperation and partnerships, including technical and material assistance and training, at the national, regional and international levels, in crime prevention and criminal justice.
7. Adoption of the report of the Congress.

12. *Decides* that the following issues shall be considered in workshops within the framework of the Fifteenth Congress:

- (a) Building resilient societies, with a focus on protecting women, children and youth: fostering engagement, education and the culture of lawfulness;
- (b) Ensuring equal access to justice for all: towards safe and secure societies while respecting the rule of law;
- (c) Getting ahead: strengthening data collection and analysis to better protect people and planet in times of new, emerging and evolving forms of crime;
- (d) Turning the digital age into an opportunity: promoting the responsible use of technologies in crime prevention and criminal justice.

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in cooperation with the institutes of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme network, to prepare a discussion guide for the regional preparatory meetings for the Fifteenth Congress and for the Congress itself in a timely manner in order to enable those meetings to be held as early as possible in 2025, and invites Member States to be actively involved in that process;

14. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to facilitate the organization of the regional preparatory meetings and to make available the necessary resources for the participation of the least developed countries in those meetings and in the Fifteenth Congress itself, in accordance with past practice and in consultation with Member States;

15. *Urges* participants in the regional preparatory meetings to examine the substantive items on the agenda and the topics of the workshops of the Fifteenth Congress and to make action-oriented recommendations to serve as a basis for the draft recommendations and conclusions for consideration by the Congress;

16. *Encourages* Member States to participate actively in the Fifteenth Congress by including in the composition of their delegations legal and policy experts, such as practitioners with special training and practical experience in crime prevention and criminal justice;

17. *Emphasizes* the importance of the workshops to be held within the framework of the Fifteenth Congress, and invites Member States, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and other relevant entities to provide financial, organizational and technical support to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime 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;
18. *Requests* the Secretary-General to facilitate the organization of ancillary meetings of non-governmental and professional organizations participating in the Fifteenth Congress, in accordance with past practice, as well as meetings of professional and geographical interest groups, and to take appropriate measures to encourage the participation of the academic and research community in the Congress, and encourages Member States to actively participate in the above-mentioned meetings, as they provide an opportunity to develop and maintain strong partnerships with the private sector and civil society organizations;
19. *Encourages* States to undertake preparations for the Fifteenth Congress at an early stage and by all appropriate means, including, where appropriate, the establishment of national preparatory committees;
20. *Encourages* the relevant United Nations programmes, specialized agencies of the United Nations system and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, as well as other professional organizations, to cooperate with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in the preparations for the Fifteenth Congress;
21. *Requests* the Commission to accord sufficient time at its thirty-third session to reviewing the progress made in the preparations for the Fifteenth Congress, to finalize in a timely manner all outstanding organizational and substantive arrangements and to make its recommendations to the General Assembly through the Economic and Social Council;
22. *Welcomes with appreciation* the offer of the Government of the United Arab Emirates to host the Fifteenth Congress, to be held in 2026;
23. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure proper follow-up to the present resolution and to report thereon to the General Assembly through the Commission at its thirty-third session;
24. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution.

*50th plenary meeting
19 December 2023*