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Crime prevention and criminal justice

**Draft resolution submitted by the Chair on the recommendation of the
Economic and Social Council (resolution [2025/15](#))**

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, as well as the applicable provisions of its resolution [56/119](#) of 19 December 2001,

Bearing in mind the applicable provisions of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31 of 25 July 1996,

Recalling its resolution [76/181](#) of 16 December 2021, in which it requested the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice to review the implementation of the Kyoto Declaration¹ under the standing item on its agenda entitled “Follow-up to the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

¹ Resolution [76/181](#), annex.



and preparations for the Fifteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice”,

Recalling also its resolution [78/223](#) of 19 December 2023, in which it approved the agenda items and decided upon the main theme and the topics for the workshops of the Fifteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, and also decided that, in accordance with its resolution [56/119](#), the Fifteenth Congress would adopt a single declaration, to be submitted to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice for its consideration,

Recalling further its resolution [79/186](#) of 17 December 2024, in which it, inter alia, decided to hold the Fifteenth Congress in Abu Dhabi from 25 to 30 April 2026, with pre-Congress consultations to be held on 24 April 2026, decided that the high-level segment of the Fifteenth Congress would be held during the first two days of the Congress, requested the Secretary-General to prepare a plan for the documentation for the Fifteenth Congress, in consultation with the extended Bureau of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, and to appoint a Secretary-General and an Executive Secretary of the Fifteenth Congress, and to ensure, in collaboration with Member States, a wide and effective programme of public information relating to the preparations for the Fifteenth Congress, to the Congress itself and to the follow-up to and implementation of its recommendations, invited Governments to undertake preparations for the Fifteenth Congress at an early stage by all appropriate means, including, where appropriate, the establishment of national preparatory committees, and encouraged 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,

Recalling that, in its resolution [79/186](#), it encouraged Member States to finalize their negotiations of the Abu Dhabi declaration in a timely manner prior to the commencement of the Fifteenth Congress so that the declaration could be adopted on the opening day of the Fifteenth Congress, thereby following the approach taken in the preparations for the Thirteenth and Fourteenth Congresses,

Recalling also that, in its resolution [79/186](#), it decided that the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, during the in-session thematic discussion at its thirty-fifth session, would give due consideration to the report of the Fifteenth Congress,

Recognizing the efforts made by the Government of the United Arab Emirates to ensure an effective preparatory process for the Fifteenth Congress, and stressing the importance of undertaking all preparatory activities for the Fifteenth Congress in a timely and concerted manner,

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 Congress,²

Bearing in mind the discussion guide for the Fifteenth Congress, prepared by the Secretariat in cooperation with the institutes of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme network for the regional preparatory meetings for the Congress,

1. *Encourages* Governments to take into account, as appropriate, the Kyoto Declaration, as well as declarations adopted by previous United Nations congresses

² [E/CN.15/2025/12](#).

on crime prevention and criminal justice, when formulating legislation and policy directives and to implement the principles contained therein, in conformity with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations;

2. *Takes note* of the follow-up by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice to the Kyoto Declaration, including through the holding of intersessional thematic discussions that facilitated the sharing of information, good practices and lessons learned among Member States and relevant stakeholders, in the consideration of the follow-up to the Fifteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and to the implementation of the Abu Dhabi declaration;

3. *Invites* Governments and relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to inform the Fifteenth Congress about their activities relating to the implementation of the Kyoto Declaration that are aimed at supporting the formulation of legislation, policies and programmes in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice;

4. *Notes with appreciation* the work undertaken thus far in the preparations for the Fifteenth Congress, including the convening of the five regional preparatory meetings;

5. *Takes note* of the reports of the regional preparatory meetings,³ to be taken into account during the preparations for and the deliberations of the Fifteenth Congress;

6. *Reiterates its invitation* to Member States to be represented at the Fifteenth Congress at the highest possible level and to play an active role in the Fifteenth Congress by sending legal and policy experts, including practitioners with special training and practical experience in crime prevention and criminal justice;

7. *Invites* Member States, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and other relevant entities to provide 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 to be held during the Fifteenth Congress, including the preparation and circulation of relevant background material, and encourages States, the institutes of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme network, other concerned entities and the Secretary-General to work together in order to ensure that the workshops are well focused and achieve practical results, leading to technical cooperation ideas and projects and documents for enhancing bilateral and multilateral technical assistance activities in crime prevention and criminal justice;

8. *Reiterates its request* to 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;

9. *Welcomes* the plan for the documentation for the Fifteenth Congress, prepared by the Secretary-General in consultation with the extended Bureau of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice;

³ [A/CONF.241/RPM.1/2](#), [A/CONF.241/RPM.2/2](#), [A/CONF.241/RPM.3/2](#), [A/CONF.241/RPM.4/2](#) and [A/CONF.241/RPM.5/2](#).

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to present to the Fifteenth Congress an overview of the state of crime and criminal justice worldwide, using available information and data, intended to inform and facilitate the discussions of Member States;

11. *Requests* the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice to give high priority at its thirty-fifth session to considering the outcome of the Fifteenth Congress, with a view to recommending, through the Economic and Social Council, appropriate follow-up by the General Assembly at its eighty-first session;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure proper preparations for the Fifteenth Congress through the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its thirty-fifth session and to submit a report to the General Assembly at its eighty-first session;

13. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to provide the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime with the necessary resources, from within the programme budget for 2026, to support the preparations for and holding of the Fifteenth Congress;

14. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to make available, within existing resources, the funds necessary to ensure the participation of the least developed countries in the Fifteenth Congress, in accordance with past practice.
