

**Proposed organizational arrangements of the  
2022 Thematic Discussions on the implementation of the Kyoto Declaration  
Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice**

Vienna, 5-7 December 2022

**Note by the Secretariat**

**A. Background**

On 7 March 2021, the Congress adopted by consensus the Kyoto Declaration, calling (in operative para 96) upon the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice to adopt the appropriate policy and operational measures for the follow-up to the declaration and to identify innovative ways to make use of information on progress made in the implementation of the declaration. It also invited 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.

In its resolution A/RES/76/181, entitled “*Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice*”, which was prepared by the Commission, the General Assembly endorsed the Kyoto Declaration. It requested, amongst others, (in operative paragraph 11 of the resolution) that the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice hold intersessional thematic discussions, working in close consultation with Member States on a workplan, to effectively follow up on the Kyoto Declaration through the sharing of information, good practices and lessons learned, subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources. That request was reiterated in the resolution entitled “*Follow-up to the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and preparations for the Fifteenth Crime Congress*”, negotiated by the Commission during its 31<sup>st</sup> session in May 2022 (in operative paragraph 4 of the resolution)

The multi-year workplan, which was agreed by the Commission by silence procedure on 23 July 2021, follows the four pillars of the declaration, (PILLAR I -Advancing crime prevention; PILLAR II - Advancing the criminal justice system; PILLAR III -Promoting the rule of law; and PILLAR IV -Promoting international cooperation and technical assistance to prevent and address all forms of crime), with each thematic discussion focusing on one thematic pillar of the declaration.

The first thematic discussion was held on 10-12 November 2021 in a hybrid format and focused on pillar I of the Kyoto Declaration, “Advancing Crime Prevention”, including addressing the causes, including the root causes, of crime, evidence-based crime prevention, tailor-made crime prevention strategies, addressing the economic dimension of crime, mainstreaming a gender perspective into crime

prevention, children and youth in crime prevention, and youth empowerment for crime prevention.

## **B. Programme of work**

In line with the multi-year workplan (see annex), the second thematic discussion will **focus on PILLAR II “Advancing the criminal justice system” and the respective sub-items**. The **three days thematic discussions** under the auspices of the Commission will be held **at the Vienna International Centre from 5-7 December 2022**.

**It is proposed to cluster the topics for the three days meeting as follows:**

### Day 1: 5 December 2022

- Safeguarding victims’ rights and protecting witnesses and reporting persons
- Improving criminal investigation processes

### Day 2: 6 December 2022

- Improving prison conditions
- Reducing reoffending through rehabilitation and reintegration

### Day 3: 7 December 2022

- Mainstreaming a gender perspective into criminal justice systems
- Addressing the vulnerabilities of children and youth in contact with the criminal justice system

## **C. Format and organization of work**

The 2022 thematic discussions will be organized in a hybrid format (in-person participation combined with virtual participation via a Microsoft Teams meeting). The thematic discussions will be organized in three parts:

- I. Introductory presentations by UNODC;
- II. Panel discussion, and
- III. Interventions from the floor

More detail on each of the parts is provided further below.

All panellists invited to deliver presentations will be encouraged to attend in person with a view to facilitate the panel discussion. At the same time, all in-person participants will need to respect the COVID-19 measures that may be in place at the time of the thematic discussion.

The Secretariat will ensure that panellists and speakers can make their interventions online should they not be able to participate in person. Presentations by panellists should be no longer than 5 minutes, interventions from the floor during the discussion should be no longer than 2 minutes.

The meetings will be held in English only, as was the case in 2021.

The morning meeting will be held from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. (Vienna time), and the afternoon meetings from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

The thematic discussions are informal meetings which will, to the extent possible, be held in line with established practice and in accordance with the applicable rules of procedure.

The meetings will be webcast on the Commission's website.

Statements and presentations of stakeholders can be posted after the thematic discussions on the Commission's dedicated website for the follow-up to the Kyoto declaration.

### **Opening on 5 December 2021**

Ms. Ghada Waly, Executive Director of UNODC, will be invited to address the opening of the thematic discussions.

During the opening, the Commission will also be addressed by one of the participants in the Youth Forum that Japan will hold for the second time in December 2022, who will report on the outcome of the Youth Forum

### **Introductory presentations**

Based on past practice, it is proposed to start each of the three days of the 2022 thematic sessions with introductory presentations by UNODC not longer than 5 minutes each.

### **Panel discussion**

After the introductory presentations, the meeting will continue – as per established practice - with a panel discussion with five experts per panel to be nominated by the Regional Groups (one per Regional Group per thematic session/day, through the Chairs of the Regional Groups), experts from other relevant UN entities and specialized agencies; one panellist from Institutes of the UN Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme Network (PNI); and one civil society panellist to be nominated through the UNODC Civil Society Unit in coordination with the Alliance of NGOs on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.

Presentations by panellists should be no longer than 5 minutes. Depending on the flow of the discussions, the Chair of the meeting may allow questions or comments after several panellists or wait until all panellists have concluded their interventions.

Discussions with the panellists will follow after the presentations. In this discussion, the panellists will address specific questions which will be presented by the Chair and designated UNODC resource persons. The list of guiding questions will be contained in the background paper, which is under preparation. Furthermore, the panellists are encouraged to have a mutual and interactive discussion among themselves.

For the thematic sessions where more than one of the sub-topics of Pillar II are under discussion, it is the prerogative of each panellist to decide which elements are addressed in the panel intervention.

### **Interventions from the floor**

Following the panel discussion, the floor will be opened for interventions. To ensure a dynamic exchange, it is strongly recommended that interventions from the floor will be made in the form of short questions or comments addressed to the panellists (not longer than 2 minutes), rather than written statements prepared in advance.

During the interventions from the floor, those delegates participating in person can raise their flag to indicate their wish to speak. Participants joining the meeting online can indicate in the meetings chat if they wish to intervene.

It is the prerogative of the Chair to give the floor to stakeholders according to the flow of the discussion.

### **D. Documentation**

A background paper by the Secretariat with information on the policy commitments under discussion during the 2022 thematic discussions including a list of guiding questions will be shared in advance of the meeting to facilitate the debate.

### **E. Outcome**

The outcome of the thematic discussions will be a short Chair's summary of the main deliberations, not subject to negotiations. The Chair's summary would be brought to the subsequent regular session of the Commission (for the 2022 Thematic Discussions to the 32nd regular session) in the form of a conference room paper.

## ANNEX – MULTI-YEAR PROGRAMME - TOPICS

### 2021 – PILLAR I Advancing crime prevention

- Addressing the causes, including the root causes, of crime;
- Evidence-based crime prevention;
- Addressing the economic dimension of crime;
- Tailor-made crime prevention strategies;
- Mainstreaming a gender perspective into crime prevention;
- Children and youth in crime prevention;
- Youth empowerment for crime prevention;
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### 2022 – PILLAR II Advancing the criminal justice system

- Safeguarding victims' rights and protecting witnesses and reporting persons;
- Improving prison conditions;
- Reducing reoffending through rehabilitation and reintegration;
- Mainstreaming a gender perspective into criminal justice systems;
- Addressing the vulnerabilities of children and youth in contact with the criminal justice system;
- Improving criminal investigation processes;

### 2023 – PILLAR III Promoting the rule of law

- Access to justice and equal treatment before the law;
- Access to legal aid;
- National sentencing policies;
- Effective, accountable, impartial and inclusive institutions;
- Effective anti-corruption efforts;
- Social, educational and other measures;

### 2024 – PILLAR IV Promoting international cooperation and technical assistance to prevent and address all forms of crime

- International cooperation, including through capacity-building and technical assistance;
- International cooperation to deprive criminals of their proceeds of crime;
- Terrorism in all its forms and manifestations;
- New, emerging and evolving forms of crime;