



# General Assembly

Distr.: Limited  
27 March 2025

English only

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## European Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Fifteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

Vienna, 25–27 March 2025

### Draft report

*Rapporteur:* Nicolas Karges (France)

### Addendum

## II. Recommendations (*continued*)

### B. Substantive items and workshops – Agenda item 5 (d)

4. 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 (agenda item 6); and turning the digital age into an opportunity: promoting the responsible use of technologies in crime prevention and criminal justice (workshop 4)

1. A presentation was made by a representative of the Secretariat introducing the agenda items.
2. Statements were made by the Russian Federation, France, Canada, the United States, the United Kingdom, Malta, Germany, Mexico and Ukraine.
3. A statement was made by the representative of the European Union,<sup>1</sup> in her capacity as observer.
4. The observers for INTERPOL and OSCE also made statements.
5. Statements were furthermore made by the observers for the Women Federation for World Peace, Penal Reform International and Caritas International.

### Summary of deliberations

6. Several speakers identified the importance of enhanced international and regional cooperation to prevent and address organized crime, corruption, technology-enabled crime, maritime crime, human trafficking, migrant smuggling and other serious transnational crimes. Specific areas for enhanced cooperation were identified,

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<sup>1</sup> Also on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union.



including for joint investigation, international asset recovery and streamlined mutual legal assistance requests. Some speakers noted the potential for a digital mutual legal assistance platform to increase the functionality, security and effectiveness of international judicial cooperation. A speaker proposed the development of a universal legal instrument to counter money-laundering and deprive criminals of illicit proceeds.

7. The importance of strengthened cooperation with civil society, academia, and the private sector was also mentioned, and some speakers advocated for closer cooperation between research agencies, to understand evolving threats and good practices in prevention and response to technology-enabled crimes, and to strengthen evidence-based capacity-building for criminal justice actors, such as prosecutors.

8. The importance of safe and secure maritime zones was mentioned, with attention to be given to improved cooperation, flag registries, and access to data to counter crimes at sea and ensure free and safe transit in international waters.

9. Some speakers identified the importance of cooperation to effectively counter the smuggling of migrants and trafficking of persons, and specific national initiatives were mentioned as effective measures for tackling challenges at the regional level. Mention was made by some speakers of the importance of broadening responses to these challenges by examining the drivers of migrant smuggling and trafficking in persons. Labour market forces were mentioned as one such driver.

10. The standardization of formats for the collection and sharing of criminal justice data was identified by a number of speakers as a priority.

11. Some speakers noted the importance of enhanced coordination and partnerships for the provision of technical and material assistance, with specific mention of south-south, north-south, and triangular cooperation. The need for sustainable capacity-building was mentioned.

12. A number of speakers noted the importance of technical assistance and capacity-building to ensure that digitalization delivers benefits for society, including in preventing and addressing crime, noting that support could be provided by UNODC in this regard.

13. Several speakers emphasized the importance of ensuring the responsible use of technology in the administration of criminal justice. This included attention to the importance of respect for human rights and fair trial rights, including the presumption of innocence and the right of defence.

14. Some speakers identified that the responsible use of artificial intelligence had the potential to enhance the protection of people, enhance access to justice, and address the workload within the judicial system by reducing repetitive tasks. Speakers noted that the use of artificial intelligence tools should adhere to the international human rights framework, and to principles of proportionality and necessity, with specific attention to ensuring human oversight and explainability. Some speakers noted that the use of artificial intelligence should be informed by rigorous assessment of risks of bias, including automation bias and profiling risks, across the full life cycle of the tools. The importance of harnessing knowledge about the methods, tools, good practices, and lessons learned from jurisdictions that had used artificial intelligence in criminal justice settings was also noted.

15. Some speakers highlighted efforts at the national level in developing a national strategy on artificial intelligence, a code of ethics on the use of artificial intelligence, and the use of artificial intelligence to assist in identifying traffic offences and crimes of fraud, while also commencing work to integrate artificial intelligence into prosecutorial activities.

16. Additional progress at the national level referred to research, applied studies, and national and international training initiatives for prosecutors; the building of local capacity and resilience against transnational and organized crime, and inter-agency

coordination to counter migrant smuggling and trafficking in persons at the regional level.

### **Outcome of deliberations**

17. The following recommendations, which were not negotiated by the participants, were identified:

(a) Enhance international and regional cooperation and information sharing to prevent and address organized crime, corruption, technology-enabled crime, maritime crime, human trafficking, migrant smuggling, and other serious transnational crimes, including by strengthening bilateral and joint investigations, the seizure, confiscation and recovery of illegally acquired international assets, judicial cooperation and streamlining mutual legal assistance requests via a digital platform;

(b) Enhance and expand bilateral and regional joint investigations and operations, including parallel investigations and operations, information-sharing on cases, and communication among law enforcement and intelligence agencies to counter migrant smuggling, drug trafficking and cybercrime;

(c) Foster closer cooperation between international research agencies, and also between academia and the private sector to enhance understanding of evolving criminal threats and challenges in crime prevention and criminal justice; and encourage governments to strengthen cooperation with civil society, including academia, for an enhanced interdisciplinary approach to crime and criminal justice issues;

(d) Promote the work of international and regional bodies in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice;

(e) Encourage Member States to fully implement the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the United Nations Convention against Corruption, noting that these provide a treaty basis for international cooperation;

(f) Strengthen the training of border security units as well as reform laws and policies to adhere to the provisions of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime Protocol Against the Smuggling of Migrants; ensure that efforts to counter the smuggling of migrants are informed by a comprehensive analysis of the underlying drivers;

(g) Ensure the active international exchange of information related to the prevention, detection, disclosure and investigation of crimes that affect the environment, thereby promoting the improvement of transboundary cooperation, including the exchange of experiences and implementation of specific projects;

(h) Strengthen the capacities of judicial systems to adjudicate cyber-enabled crimes, including as they relate to crimes that enable the financing of criminal and/or terrorist networks; and take adequate measures to improve electronic evidence collection and analysis, cyber incident response policies and procedures, and cybercrime intelligence collection and sharing;

(i) Invest in digital justice platforms that streamline court processes, making them faster and more accessible for citizens;

(j) Enhance global cooperation and effectively address technology-enabled crimes, and use data analytics and new technologies to improve crime prediction, investigations and case management;

(k) Enhance understanding of the full application of international law in the cyber domain in order to ensure that the United Nations Convention against Cybercrime contributes to countering and preventing cybercrime; and consider signing and ratifying this Convention;

(l) Promote the responsible use of technology, including artificial intelligence, in the criminal justice system, to address the workload in the judicial system by reducing repetitive tasks when appropriate, and facilitate access to justice and legal information; and ensure that technology, including artificial intelligence, is used responsibly in the criminal justice system, with the aim of strengthening the rule of law, public safety, and the prevention and response to crime while upholding human rights and due process safeguards, including by adhering to the principles of necessity and proportionality, protecting privacy rights and by monitoring to exclude bias or profiling risks;

(m) Promote the strengthening of the international legal framework on artificial intelligence, ensuring human oversight and explainability; and develop uniform standards for the use of artificial intelligence in law enforcement, paying special attention to the minimization of possible threats and the prerogative of final decision-making by human beings;

(n) Facilitate the international exchange of methods, tools, good practices and lessons learned to advance understanding about the responsible use of technology in the criminal justice system, in a manner that is proportionate and respectful of the rights of individuals.

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