



14TH UNITED NATIONS CONGRESS ON CRIME PREVENTION AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE

KYOTO, JAPAN 7 – 12 MARCH 2021



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Questions and answers

What is the 14th United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice?

The 14th United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice is hosted by the Government of Japan and will take place as a hybrid event with some participants in Kyoto and others joining virtually from 7 to 12 March 2021. It was initially due to be held from 20 to 27 April 2020 but was postponed because of the coronavirus pandemic. United Nations Crime Prevention Congresses have been held every five years since 1955 in different parts of the world, dealing with a vast array of topics. They have made a considerable impact on the field of international crime prevention and criminal justice and influenced national policies and professional practices. As a global forum, the Congresses enable the exchange of information and best practices among States and professionals working in this field. Their overall goal is to promote more effective crime prevention policies and criminal justice measures all over the world.

What is the theme of this year's Congress?

The theme of the 14th Congress is “Advancing crime prevention, criminal justice and the rule of law: towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda” as decided by the United Nations General Assembly ([Resolution 72/192](#)).

What will be discussed at the Congress?

There are four substantive items on the agenda covering the following:

- comprehensive strategies for crime prevention towards social and economic development;
- integrated approaches to challenges facing the criminal justice system;

- multidimensional approaches by governments to promoting the rule of law by, among other things, 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;
- international cooperation and technical assistance to prevent and address all forms of crime: terrorism in all its forms and manifestations; new and emerging forms of crime.

The Congress will also be the venue of four workshops on: evidence-based crime prevention: statistics, indicators and evaluation in support of successful practices; reducing reoffending: identifying risks and developing solutions; education and youth engagement as key to making societies resilient to crime; and current crime trends, recent developments and emerging solutions, in particular new technologies as means for and tools against crime. A high-level segment will be held at the beginning of the Congress, where Heads of State or Government and Ministers and other high-level government representatives will address the main agenda items of the Congress. There will also be numerous other side meetings organized by non-governmental organizations, covering subjects relating to crime prevention, criminal justice and the rule of law.

Who will participate?

The Crime Congress is a global forum that brings together the largest and most diverse gathering of policymakers and practitioners in



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the area of crime prevention and criminal justice, as well as individual experts from academia, representatives of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, specialized agencies and other United Nations entities.

What is the expected outcome of the Congress?

The Congress will adopt a single political declaration, which will contain recommendations based on discussions at the various parts of the Congress including the high-level segment and the workshops. The declaration will be submitted to the next session of the United Nations Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice from 17-21 May 2021 for appropriate consideration and action. The Congress will also provide a platform for increased cooperation between governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations on the whole spectrum of crime prevention and criminal justice work, promoting more effective international action in this field.

What happens in the run-up to the Congress?

To provide a regional perspective on the topics to be discussed at the Congress, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) organized a series of regional preparatory meetings in 2019, held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia; Bangkok, Thailand; Beirut, Lebanon; Santiago, Chile; and Vienna, Austria.

How will the hybrid event work?

Due to the global pandemic, there will be a limited number of people participating in person in Kyoto, Japan. Many participants will be joining through the virtual platform especially set up for the event. All the side events will be held virtually.

How can I follow proceedings if I am not able to come to Kyoto, Japan?

There will be [webcast coverage](#) of the Congress in English and the original (floor) language as well as statements (speeches) in text format.

[Further information for the media is available here](#)