



The Eleventh United Nations
Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice,
18-25 April 2005, Bangkok, Thailand

ELEVENTH CRIME PREVENTION CONGRESS: QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

The Eleventh Crime Prevention Congress is being hosted by the Government of Thailand, and will take place in Bangkok from 18 to 25 April 2005. The United Nations crime prevention congresses have been held every five years since 1955 in different parts of the world and have dealt with an array of topics. They have had a considerable impact in the international crime prevention and criminal justice arena, influencing national policies and professional practices. As a global forum, the congresses have facilitated 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 main theme of the Eleventh Congress is "Synergies and responses: strategic alliances in crime prevention and criminal justice", as decided by the United Nations General Assembly. The Congress is being convened at a significant time, with three major international instruments having come into force recently. These are the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime; the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children and the Protocol against Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, both supplementing the Convention.

What will be discussed at the Congress?

There are five substantive items on the agenda: effective measures to combat transnational organized crime; international cooperation against terrorism and links between terrorism and other criminal activities in the context of the work of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime; corruption: threats and trends in the twenty-first century; economic and financial crimes: challenges

to sustainable development; and making standards work: fifty years of standard-setting in crime prevention and criminal justice. The Congress will also be the venue of six workshops, on enhancing international law enforcement cooperation, including extradition measures; enhancing criminal justice reforms, including restorative justice; strategies and best practices for crime prevention, in particular in relation to urban crime and youth at risk; measures to combat terrorism, with reference to the relevant international conventions and protocols; measures to combat economic crime, including money-laundering; and measures to combat computer-related crime. A high-level segment will be held during the last three days of the Congress, where Heads of State or Government or ministers and other high-level government representatives will be able to address the main agenda items of the Congress. There will also be numerous ancillary meetings organized by non-governmental organizations (NGOs), covering a very broad range of issues pertaining to crime prevention, criminal justice and the rule of law.

Who will participate?

The Crime Congress is a global forum that brings together government delegations, representatives of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, specialized agencies and other United Nations entities, as well as individual experts—from a whole spectrum of criminal justice fields—who have their respective professional contributions to make.

What is the expected outcome of the Congress?

The Congress will adopt a single declaration, which will contain recommendations that have originated from discussions at the various segments of the Congress. After its adoption, the declaration will be submitted to the United Nations Commission

on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice for appropriate consideration and action. Also, there are expectations that the special treaty event that will take place during the high-level segment of the Congress will produce a significant number of ratifications and accessions to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its Protocols, the United Nations Convention against Corruption and the four anti-terrorism conventions deposited with the Secretary-General. Thus it is hoped that the third supplementary Protocol to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition, and the United Nations Convention against Corruption will come very close to, if not attain the necessary number of ratifications or accessions to enter into force. The Congress will also provide the impetus for formulating comprehensive

national responses to crime prevention, as well as a platform that facilitates increased cooperation between Governments and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations on the whole spectrum of criminal justice reform, thus promoting more effective international action in this field.

What happened in the run-up to the Congress?

In order to provide a regional perspective on the issues to be discussed at the Congress, UNODC organized a series of regional preparatory meetings in early 2004, in Addis Ababa, Bangkok, San José and Beirut. The idea was for participants to highlight their special concerns and share their “lessons learned”. Each meeting was followed by a two-day seminar on the promotion of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the United Nations Convention against Corruption.

For further information:

www.unodc.org and www.unis.unvienna.org