THE Alliance
OF NGOs ON CRIME PREVENTION & CRIMINAL JUSTICE

COMPENDIUM OF CIVIL SOCIETY CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE PREPARATIONS FOR THE 15TH UN CRIME CONGRESS

Executive Summary

The compendium of recommendations, created through a survey of **more than 300 NGOs** and other stakeholders, has provided the international community with a broad and diverse range of inputs and best practice examples upon which to draw as the 15th UN Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice is prepared. **The Alliance of NGOs on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice**, as the umbrella body for civil society engagement at the Congress, looks forward to taking forward these insights to support the development of the inputs and outcomes of the Congress.

Civil society engagement and participation in the areas of crime prevention and criminal justice is not a novel concept for the Congress, which was born out of a multistakeholder process that pre-dates the United Nations itself. It is clear from the mandate of the Congress that **civil society contributions in these policy areas are fundamental to their success**. The survey and compendium provide an overview, with concrete examples, of what civil society contributions look like today, which, of course, is very different from what it looked like in the long history of the Congress. While civil society has evolved and become more diverse, its value has continued to increase. Sometimes, civil society might say challenging things, but that is its role.

The input provided by civil society organizations and individuals includes, **inter alia, victim support, access to justice and legal aid, research on criminal markets, support to law enforcement in pursuing investigations, prison reform, human rights protection, data protection, prevention of torture, gender-sensitive programming, and community engagement.**

The evolution and adoption of all the UN's conventions, standards, and norms in this area have benefited from the contributions of civil society, and their implementation is not possible without them, through technical assistance, engagement, review, and assessment.
Unfortunately, **NGOs face a curious and unfortunate situation where civil society has faced restrictions from various processes of key interest to the Congress** – notably the review mechanisms of the UNCAC and the UNTOC, which has hindered progress, leaving states and the UN with an information gap about what is working or not, on the ground.

There is also a **trend towards access in expert meetings** on standards and norms, as well as in the UNTOC and UNCAC working groups, which face unnecessary and counterproductive restrictions.

As states move forward in those review mechanisms, and in the implementation the wide range of existing standards and norms, as well as the new cybercrime convention, and continue discussions on a potential additional protocol to the UNTOC on crimes that affect the environment, the **participation of civil society needs to be fully integrated to ensure that existing and new instruments that are effective as possible.**

The breadth and depth of civil society interest in the 15th Congress is a positive development, but it also **reflects the growing concerns at all levels of society due to growing criminality, declining trust in institutions, and an increasingly unstable world.** The challenges faced are common to governments and their citizens.

This **Congress is therefore an opportunity to reinvigorate the spirit of partnership that is needed to rise to the manifold challenges we are facing** – and to open up discussions on all relevant standards and norms, existing and new conventions. All of these need broad and diverse inputs, constructive in spirit, to drive forward implementation in the partnership spirit of the SDGs.

For the **Abu Dhabi Declaration, it is essential to incorporate diverse perspectives for the benefit of a more effective and forward-looking programme of action,** with the rule of law and human rights at its core, and a recognition of civil society as central partners and actors alongside governments, in a true spirit of **PARTNERSHIP**.

Based on the inputs received in the survey, the following key themes should be emphasized, all of which require civil society participation to be fully integrated as part of a new wave of partnerships to implement the Abu Dhabi Declaration:

COMMUNITY AT THE CENTRE Only local communities can provide the information, context and access necessary to ensure crime, and justice interventions are appropriate and effective appropriate and effective. This includes safe spaces for women and girls providing services, including gender based violence response and prevention services.

Therefore there is a need to better foster community engagement, through full integration of local organizations into victim support, enhanced protection of vulnerable groups, with a specific focus on youth and children, strengthening protection of women and children exploited by criminality – including those who faced violence and harassment in the physical and online worlds, and enhancing community engagement in areas affected by crimes that affect the environment.

UPHOLDING ACCESS TO JUSTICE, HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE RULE OF LAW Ensure fair, humane, transparent, and inclusive people-centred justice. To achieve this, policymakers are encouraged to enhance capacity for law enforcement and justice authorities, working with civil society and multilateral institutions, specifically on more effective implementation of the UN crime, criminal justice and corruption treaties, standards and norms on topics such as prison conditions, youth in the criminal justice system, gender-based violence, non-discrimination, victim-driven approaches and restorative justice practices.

BETTER DATA AND ASSESSMENT There are huge data gaps stemming from inadequate sharing, and there is a lack of sex- and age-disaggregated data, as well as independent research and analysis. Governments do not make the best use of the diverse and independent sources of data required to meaningfully review and assess the effectiveness of existing treaties, standards, and norms. International cooperation and transnational collaboration will be improved by increasing information and data sharing, among CSOs, multilateral organizations, and governments worldwide, but successful sharing requires meaningful sources. Creating new and innovative data sharing mechanisms is essential for facilitating such exchange, which will allow the international community to respond faster to evolving forms of crime like crimes that affect the environment – the harms of which are irreversible.
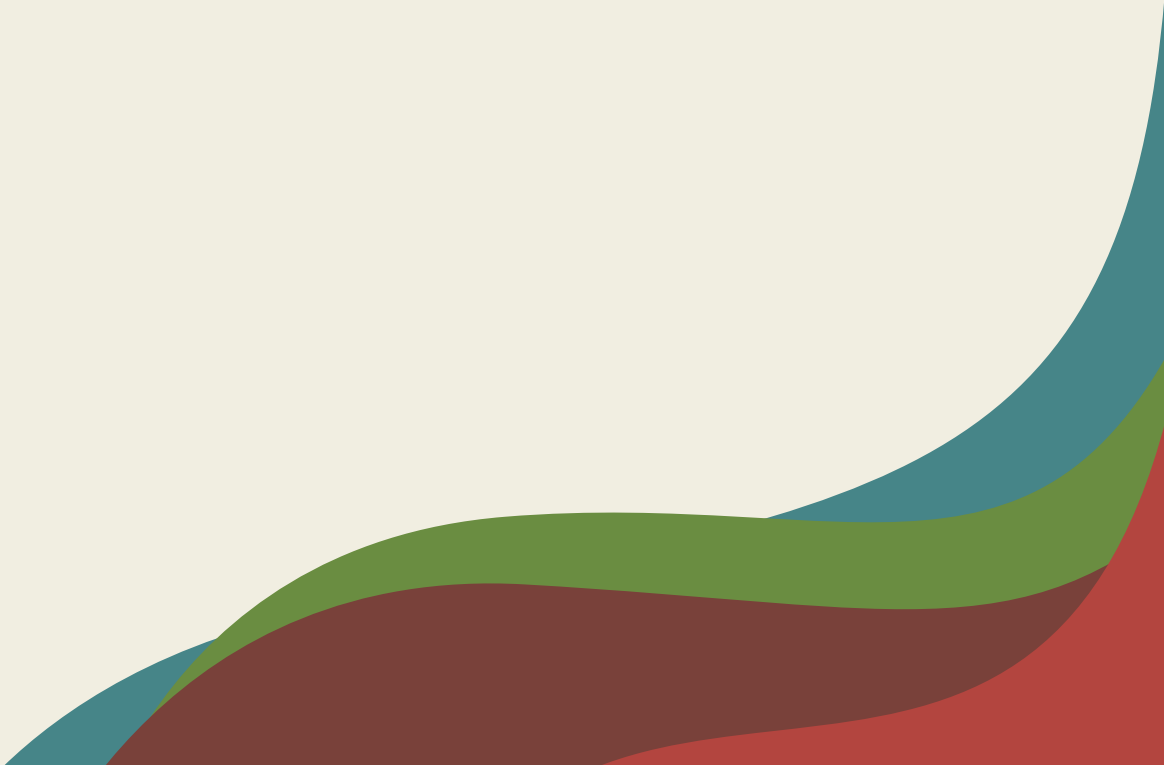
HARNESSING TECHNOLOGICAL INNOVATION, WHILST PROTECTING AGAINST EXCESSES Improvements in technological innovation provide both opportunities and risks. Many digital innovations do not respond to the specific needs of women and girls, and in some cases, can put them at risk of further harm. To ensure that technological innovations are used for the benefit of victims and communities, innovative uses of technology to share information between sectors should be encouraged. At the same time, innovations in technology can present human rights and data privacy risks; therefore, monitoring and assessment are essential, in collaboration with civil society, including in international criminal justice procedures. This is pertinent in the implementation of the new UN cybercrime convention and in the context of criminal justice systems.

RECOGNITION, SUPPORT AND PROTECTION The sacrifices of law enforcement and judicial personnel have long been recognized in outcome documents of the Congress and CCPCJ. But violence is an increasingly common risk for civil society, especially those working in communities to counteract criminality and corruption, such as environmental defenders, and women human rights defenders. Special focus should be given to increasing the recognition and protection of civil society individuals and organizations who put themselves at risk to uphold the values of peace and justice, which are central to the Congress. One concrete way to support civil society is to promote direct funding to local community-based organizations and individuals, as well as tailored capacity-building, and international networking programmes to create enabling environments that achieve significant, sustainable change.

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Introduction

The **United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice** —commonly known as the UN Crime Congress—is the oldest and most comprehensive global gathering focused on issues of crime prevention and criminal justice.

Civil society has played a crucial and evolving role in the United Nations Crime Congresses since their inception in 1955. These Congresses have long been one of the few UN fora where government delegates, academics, practitioners, and civil society organizations (CSOs) gather on equal footing to address global criminal justice issues. The Congresses have provided a unique space for civil society to contribute expertise, advocate for reforms, and hold states accountable for implementing international standards.

The **Alliance of NGOs on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice** (Alliance) is pleased to present the following report, outlining challenges and key recommendations from civil society experts around the world.

Methodology

To ensure structured and meaningful civil society engagement in the lead-up to the 15th UN Crime Congress, the **Alliance of NGOs on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice** (Alliance) and the **UNODC Civil Society Unit** (UNODC CSU) collaboratively developed a global online survey. The survey was disseminated online among NGOs, academic institutions, private sector companies, and individual experts worldwide working on crime prevention-related issues and focused on gathering their inputs in **preparation for the 15th UN Crime Congress to inform Member States' deliberations.**

To complement the survey, the Alliance, together with the UNODC CSU, held civil society coordination meetings prior to each of the Regional Preparatory Meetings for the Congress. These coordination meetings served as an opportunity to present preliminary regional results from the survey and to discuss additional recommendations from civil society representatives. The online survey was designed using **Microsoft Forms** and comprised both **closed- and open-ended questions**, encompassing the agenda items and workshop topics set for the 15th United Nations Crime Congress.

The web link to the global survey was circulated via emails, websites, and social media by the Alliance, UNODC CSU, and by numerous partners and networks around the world starting in November 2024.

The survey was made available in **Arabic, English, French, Russian, and Spanish** and comprised **55 questions** in total, with open-ended text-based questions to elicit more in-depth responses. The aim of the substantive questions was to understand which respondents (CSOs, academics, private sector, or individual experts) of the respondents worked on which issue, and to gather their inputs on challenges, best practices, and recommendations that they would like to bring forward at the 15th Crime Congress.

A '**skip logic**' feature was integrated into the survey, guiding respondents based on their responses down a question tree (i.e., some 'no' responses led to respondents skipping over follow-up questions).

Limitations

Some **limitations** to the global survey resulted from the questions posed and their composition. Mirroring the agenda items and workshop topics of the 15th United Nations Crime Congress led to a certain amount of **repetition and overlap** of questions. In addition, the scope of the survey was extensive, comprising 55 questions, with more than half of the substantive questions being open-ended.

Due to **financial constraints**, the survey was only available in Arabic, English, French, Russian, and Spanish. Consideration should also be given to factors related to outreach and dissemination. Information about the survey and the preparatory process for the Crime Congress was primarily shared among Alliance members and stakeholders who had previously engaged with the UNODC on crime prevention-related matters.

For each group of responses, the number of inputs was counted to proportionally identify its incidence. Furthermore, for each agenda item and workshop topic, an introductory summary was created, identifying some of the most recurring challenges and key recommendations.

Survey Results

Composition of respondents

In total, the survey gathered **311** responses from **79** countries. Globally, the majority of responses came from **NGOs** (74.2%), followed by individual experts (17.4%), the private sector (4.2%), and academic institutions (4.2%).
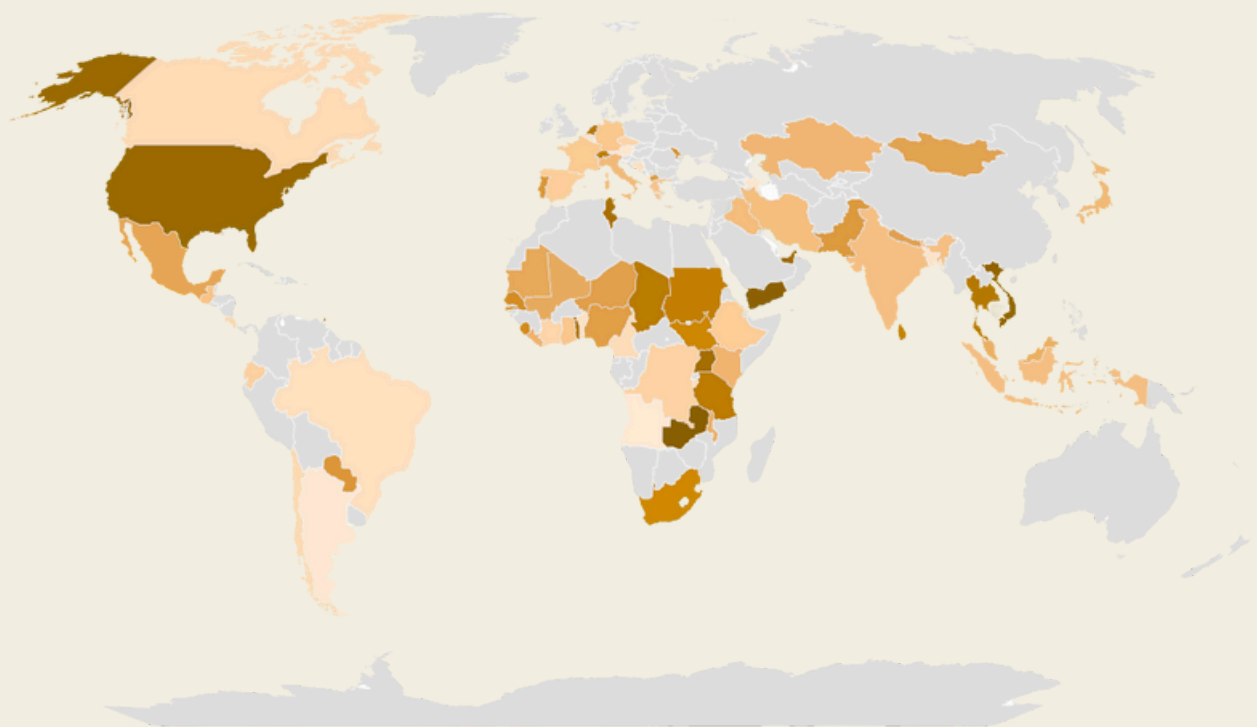
Overview of the share of respondents working on the 15th Crime Congress agenda items and workshop topics.

15th Crime Congress topic	% of NGOs working on the topic	% of other respondents working on the topic
Agenda item 1: Innovative and evidence-based crime prevention strategies	74%	79%
Workshop topic 1: Resilient society building, with a focus on vulnerable groups	86%	72%
Agenda item 2: People centered, inclusive, and responsive criminal justice systems	71%	61%
Workshop topic 2: Equal access to justice	72%	58%
Agenda item 3: New, emerging, and evolving forms of crime	92%	88%
Workshop topic 3: Strengthening data collection and analysis	50%	61%
Agenda item 4: Cooperation and partnerships in crime prevention and criminal justice	69%	67%
Workshop topic 4: Fostering responsible use of technology	51%	57%

ECOSOC status

Across most regions, **less than or approximately half** of the respondents represent NGOs in consultative status with ECOSOC.

Respondents from organizations in consultative status with ECOSOC of per region	
Asia-Pacific	33 out of 90 (37%)
Latin America and Caribbean	27 out of 56 (50%)
Europe and North America	36 out of 90 (40%)
Africa	56 out of 129 (43%)
West Asia	12 out of 16 (75%)

Global overview of respondents from NGOs with ECOSOC status
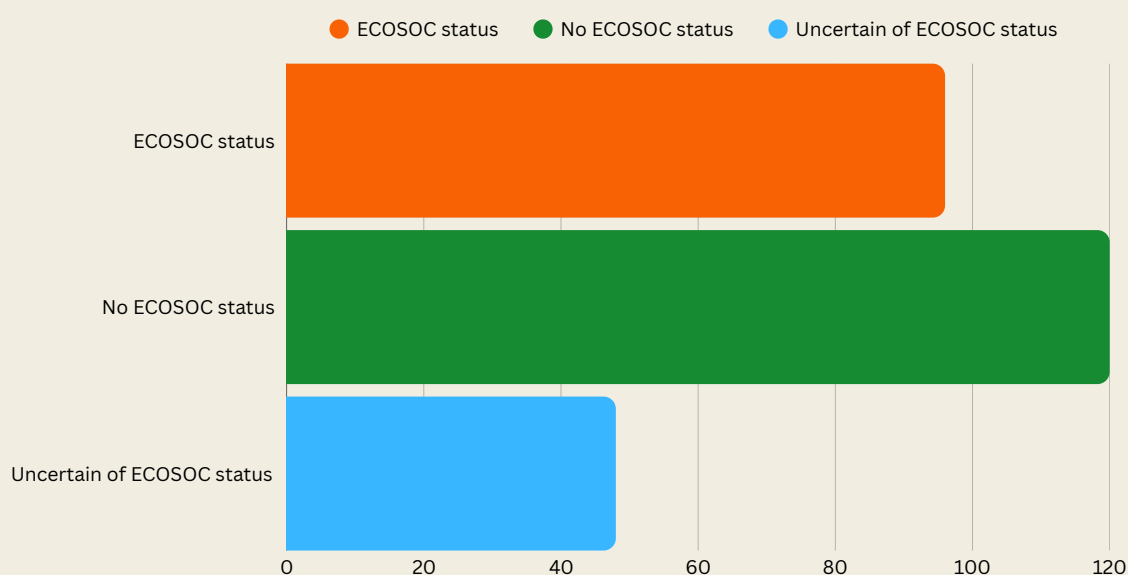
Operational level

Aggregated operational level of the respondents is represented below.
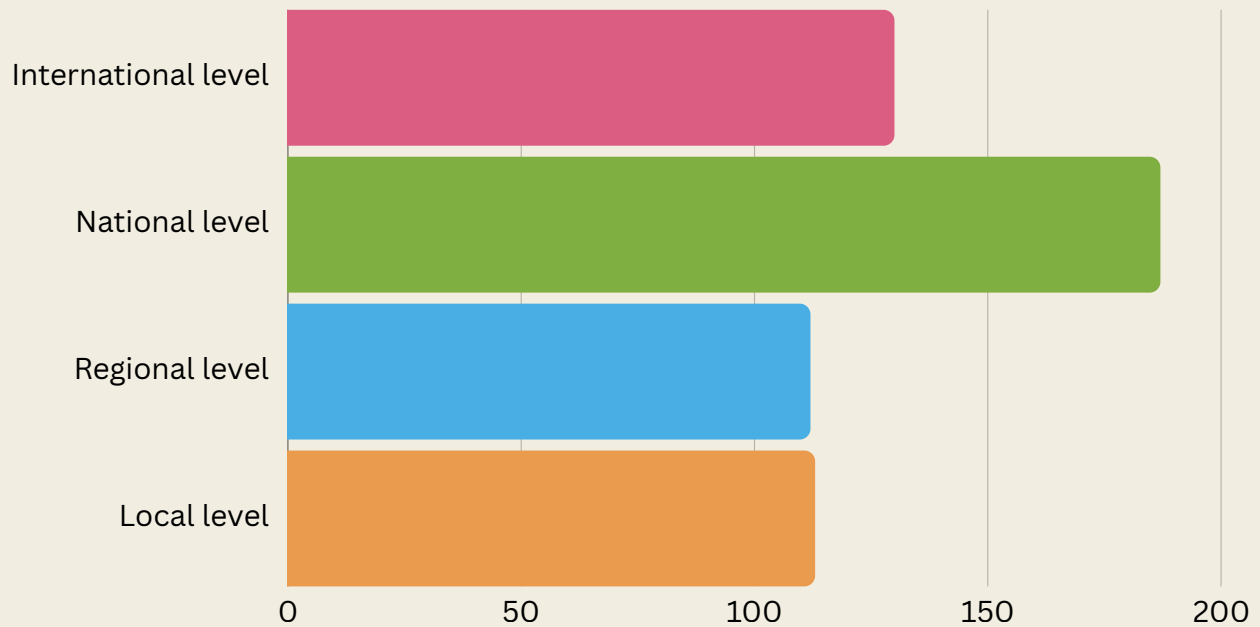
Agenda Item 01: Innovative and Evidence-Based Crime Prevention Strategies and Workshop Topic 01: Resilient Society Building, with a Focus on Vulnerable Groups

Pertaining to agenda item 1 ("Advancing innovative and evidence-based crime prevention strategies towards social, economic, and environmental development") and workshop topic 1 ("Building resilient societies, with a focus on protecting women, children and youth: fostering engagement, education, and the culture of lawfulness"), respondents were asked to identify challenges and achievements and to formulate their key recommendations to policymakers at the 15th UN Crime Congress.

294 respondents indicated that they work on advancing innovative and evidence-based crime prevention strategies, while 305 respondents indicated they work on building resilient societies.

Asia and the Pacific

Of the 305 organizations and experts whose work relates to agenda item 1 and/or workshop topic 1, 64 respondents indicated that they operate in the Asia-Pacific region.

Key Findings on Crime Prevention Strategies

Respondents stressed the importance of **inclusive, community-driven, and evidence-based crime prevention strategies.** These initiatives should incorporate **innovative technologies**, promote disaggregated **data-sharing,** and ensure the **participation of diverse stakeholders** in policymaking. Strengthening both cross-sectoral and **international cooperation** was highlighted as essential for sustainable impact.

One key recommendation is to:

"Develop a Global Crime Prevention and Justice Collaboration Platform to streamline real-time data sharing, foster international partnerships, and provide training programs for law enforcement, policymakers, and civil society. This platform should focus on addressing the root causes of crime, integrating victim-centered approaches, and utilizing technology to tackle emerging threats such as cybercrime and trafficking. It should also prioritize community-driven solutions to ensure crime prevention strategies are inclusive, practical, and impactful for societies worldwide". - NGO from India

A strong call was made for **victim-centred reforms and gender-sensitive approaches**, alongside efforts to harmonize **legal frameworks** and provide financial support to less developed countries. **Education and awareness,** particularly for youth and families, were seen as foundational to crime prevention, especially when paired with community engagement and **protections for whistleblowers.** Early intervention, **rehabilitation programs,** and socio-economic support mechanisms were commonly cited as crucial components.

It is important to:

"Encourage Asian member states' commitment to addressing the intersection of human trafficking and illicit drug trafficking via renewed pledges to mutual legal assistance and cross-border investigation mechanisms". - NGO from Malaysia

During the Regional Preparatory Meeting (RPM) for Asia and the Pacific, **Member States** identified key recommendations that echo Civil Society recommendations: they called for the **integration of crime prevention into broader social, economic, and environmental policies to address the root causes of crime**. They also urged the **promotion of community-based initiatives** that involve local stakeholders in **developing and implementing crime prevention strategies**, and they encouraged the use of data and research to inform policy decisions and tailor interventions to specific contexts (Source: A/CONF.241/RPM.1/L.1/Add.1)

<u>Building Resilient Societies: Focus on Women, Children, and Youth</u>

Strengthening social protection systems, expanding access to education, and ensuring inclusive policymaking were highlighted as key to building resilient communities. Respondents noted particular challenges in Pacific Island states, where women, children, and youth often face **heightened vulnerabilities.**

Policymakers were urged to focus on education, capacity-building, and empowerment, with a strong integration of **gender equality, digital safety, and legal literacy**. Programs must be culturally sensitive and designed to reflect the lived realities of affected communities. In addition, **vocational training**, leadership development for marginalized groups, and **public awareness campaigns** were identified as important tools to support survivors of **violence and exploitation**, transforming them into agents of change within their communities.

Holistic strategies are needed, integrating mental health and trauma, to make informed decisions, is also essential. Efforts must be supported by sustainable funding mechanisms, a targeted and **equitable allocation of resources,** and clear policy reforms that **protect and empower women, children, and youth.**

"My key recommendation to policymakers at the 15th UN Crime Congress is to implement mandatory, comprehensive education programs in schools that focus on gender equality, digital safety, and legal literacy for women, children, and youth. These programs should be culturally adaptable, emphasizing the importance of respect, inclusion, and the culture of lawfulness. By integrating these initiatives into national curricula and supporting them with community-based awareness campaigns, policymakers can empower young individuals and women to recognize and assert their rights, fostering resilience against crime and contributing to safer, more equitable societies." - Academic Institution from India

Similarly, the chair's summary of the RPM for Asia and the Pacific **highlights** the **need to develop educational programs** that foster a culture of lawfulness among youth and promote awareness of rights and responsibilities.

Member States also recommended implementing measures to protect women and children from violence and exploitation, including strengthening legal frameworks and support services. Community engagement should be strengthened by developing localized crime prevention initiatives that address specific vulnerabilities.
(Source: A/CONF.241/RPM.1/L.1/Add.1)

Latin America and the Caribbean

According to the 72 respondents, Member States at the 15th UN Crime Congress should focus on addressing the root causes of crime, integrating victim-centered approaches, and utilizing technology to tackle emerging threats such as cybercrime and trafficking in persons.

Key Findings on Crime Prevention Strategies

Survey participants working in Latin America and the Caribbean highlighted the need for Member States to prioritize **community-driven strategies,** ensuring that crime prevention measures are inclusive, practical, and responsive to the needs of local populations. A comprehensive, evidence-based approach should be promoted to emphasize **education** and **community empowerment**.
A specific strategy identified in this context is the **use of innovative technologies to prevent sexual abuse**. Respondents emphasized investments in **data-driven research** as essential to identifying specific risk factors and behavioral patterns associated with sexual abuse, enabling the development of targeted policies and effective prevention programs. Furthermore, community-based action frameworks should be established to create **support networks** that empower citizens and facilitate the safe identification and reporting of abuse. **Raising public awareness** and providing continuous, specialized **training for professionals,** such as law enforcement officers, educators, and healthcare workers, is critical.

Moreover, respondents highlighted the mainstreaming of **gender perspectives** across all crime prevention strategies.

This includes prioritizing efforts to eliminate violence against women, protecting survivors from secondary victimization within criminal justice systems, and ensuring meaningful participation of women, whether as police officers, prosecutors, judges, policymakers, or researchers, in the design and implementation of crime prevention initiatives.

As technology continues to advance, policymakers should **ensure** that crime prevention strategies **use real-time data** and advanced analytics. This can be achieved by **investing in data-based research to develop targeted policies and programs,** as well as by partnering with tech companies and educational platforms. In addition, it is crucial to **raise awareness of cybercrime** while strengthening knowledge and tools to prevent and respond to online threats. An effective response only comes from cross-sector coordination, involving the community, **vulnerable groups**, such as women, children, and youth, NGOs, and academia.

"Promote comprehensive information based on scientific evidence that prioritizes education, community support and the use of innovative technologies for the prevention of sexual abuse.
Reverse investigations based on data from which to identify specific risk factors and behavioral patrons associated with sexual abuse to develop policies and directed programs.
Describe community action marks, establish support lines in communities to prevent citizens and facilitate the identification and reporting of cases in a safe environment.
Overview of awareness and training of professionals offering constant capacity to those responsible for the application of the law, teachers, health professionals".- NGO from Mexico

At the RPM for Latin America and the Caribbean, recommendations brought forward by both Member States and civil society included the promotion of a multidimensional approach to crime prevention, integrating efforts across sectors such as health, education, and social services, the development of community-based programs that involve local stakeholders in the design and implementation of crime prevention strategies.

Similar to civil society, Member States also proposed utilizing evidence-based policies and disaggregated data to inform decision-making and tailor interventions to specific community needs, addressing the structural causes of criminality by implementing public policies related to education, culture, sports, health, and socioeconomic development. (A/CONF.241/RPM.2/L.1/Add.2)

Building Resilient Societies: Focus on Women, Children, and Youth

Survey respondents identified **Patriarchal structures and cultural norms** as hindering efforts to protect women and children, limiting their access to justice and opportunities for empowerment. In some communities, entrenched patriarchal and traditional norms make it difficult to engage families and local leaders in advocacy and awareness programs.

In certain regions, there is **insufficient funding** and **logistical support** for programs aimed at protecting vulnerable groups, limiting the reach and sustainability of initiatives. Furthermore, there is often a **lack of coordination between local authorities, NGOs, and international bodies**, leading to inefficiencies in delivering programs and services to those in need.

Addressing deeply ingrained cultural and societal norms that perpetuate gender-based violence and discrimination was seen by many respondents as a key factor for bettering women's and children's conditions. **Providing access to education**, vocational training, and leadership development programs helps young people, particularly girls, to gain the skills and confidence to lead successful lives and advocate for their rights.

Gender based violence was identified as one of the main problems in Latin America. It manifests through the social and economic exclusion of children and women, and is exacerbated by corruption and lack of trust in governmental institutions.

Respondents also addressed migrant smuggling:

> *"Greater involvement of local governments in exposed communities such as border and coastal areas; strengthen the development of awareness-raising programs. In many of these places, for example, migrant smuggling is perceived as a legitimate form of employment. The lack of information in local and transit areas hinders victim support and leads to impunity for such crimes." - NGO from Costa Rica*

The chair's summary of the Latin America and Caribbean RPM reflects several of the recommendations also made by civil society, including implementing multidisciplinary programs targeting protective factors for at-risk youth and enhancing the capabilities of local authorities in vulnerable neighborhoods. Member States also encourage the development of local crime prevention and development plans in cooperation with communities, local, and national governments. In order to strengthen trust between the criminal justice system and the population, community-oriented policing and inclusive practices should be implemented. Another key target is to promote gender-sensitivity across the criminal justice system and address the specific needs of women, children, persons with disabilities, older persons, and indigenous communities. (A/CONF.241/RPM.2/L.1/Add.3)

Europe and North America

44 of the respondents indicated that they work in Europe and North America. Organized crime emerged as a serious concern for many survey participants, as well as private sector's lack of engagement in crime prevention strategies.

Key Findings on Crime Prevention Strategies

Respondents working in Europe and North America highlighted that evidence-based crime prevention initiatives require **collaboration,** including between academics and practitioners.

Although many initiatives worldwide aim to bridge this gap, practical challenges persist, not only in connecting research to practice but also in fostering effective collaboration **between academics and practitioners.** These challenges can hinder the successful implementation of crime prevention efforts.

Regional responses also advocated for harmonized international legal frameworks to address transnational crimes and ensure consistent enforcement. Additionally, they emphasized the importance of engaging the private sector to innovate tools and strategies, while ensuring that ethical considerations and accountability are maintained. This comprehensive approach would enable policymakers to proactively anticipate and mitigate evolving crime patterns, fostering trust and transparency.

It was also recommended to:

"Establish secure, efficient channels for real-time sharing of crime data among nations. This would support the identification of transnational crime trends, facilitate coordinated responses to organized crime and terrorism, and foster international partnerships. Regional hubs or a centralized global repository under the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) could oversee data aggregation and distribution." - NGO from the United Kingdom

Member States at the RPM for Europe recommended strengthening international and regional cooperation to address organized crime, corruption, terrorism, and cybercrime. Furthermore, promoting multi-stakeholder partnerships was identified as a priority, including civil society, academia, and the private sector.

Supporting evidence-based policymaking through the use of reliable data was one of the key elements raised, as well as research to develop integrated responses that tackle the root causes of crime.

To enhance capacity-building for law enforcement and criminal justice practitioners, Member States pointed out the need to address emerging forms of crime, such as environmental offenses, online fraud, and the misuse of cryptocurrencies.

(A/CONF.241/RPM.3/L.1/Add.1)

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(A/CONF.241/RPM.3/L.1/Add.1)

Building Resilient Societies: Focus on Women, Children, and Youth

Several respondents noted that **deep-rooted cultural norms** and **societal structures** can impede the active participation of women and youth in community initiatives, limiting their influence in decision-making processes. **Limited awareness** and a **lack of comprehensive education** on recognizing and addressing violence can perpetuate such harmful norms and undermine prevention efforts. **Language barriers, differences in legal systems**, and **trust issues** can also impede collaboration.

Survey participants pointed to a **lack of coordination** between local authorities, NGOs, and international bodies, leading to inefficiencies in delivering programs and services to those in need.

"Propose the imposition of binding policies within law enforcement authorities in relation to the treatment of cases relating to violence against women, migrants and other vulnerable individuals or minorities." - NGO from the United Kingdom

Limited financial and **human resources** restrict the implementation of comprehensive educational programs and community engagement activities. In certain regions, there is **insufficient funding and logistical support** for programs aimed at protecting vulnerable groups, limiting the reach and sustainability of these initiatives. A significant **technological gap** in under-resourced regions hampers efforts to address cybercrime and digital fraud, leaving communities increasingly vulnerable to exploitation.

Historical injustices and **systemic discrimination** have led to a **lack of trust** in legal and governmental institutions among marginalized groups, making it challenging to foster a culture of lawfulness.

> *"To enhance the building of resilient societies with a focus on protecting women, children, and youth, I recommend that policymakers at the 15th UN Crime Congress **prioritize the integration of comprehensive educational programs** that promote a culture of lawfulness and human rights awareness."* - NGO from the United Kingdom

Member States at the European RPM, among others, discussed the importance of the legal and educational empowerment of youth and women. They recommended using education, awareness campaigns, and cultural initiatives to strengthen the rule of law. Key priorities include strengthening community-based interventions, especially for marginalized populations, and combating gender-based violence through prevention, legal reforms, and victim services. It is also important to engage youth as active contributors to crime prevention and peacebuilding, and tailor responses to the specific needs of children, including reintegration support and legal protection. (A/CONF.241/RPM.3/L.1/Add.3)

Africa

118 respondents from Africa indicated that they are working on Agenda item 1 and/or Workshop topic 1. Similar to Europe, a majority of respondents from Africa identified organized crime as a grave threat. African civil society representatives pointed out that organized crime weakens governments and fuels corruption, thus endangering the well-being of communities and exacerbating inequalities.

Key Findings on Crime Prevention Strategies

Survey participants from Africa underscored the need for effective crime-prevention strategies and raised concerns that strategies which are not grounded in evidence can lead to **human rights violations**, such as infringements of procedural rights, arbitrary arrest and detention, or even injury and death.

A primary challenge identified by many respondents **is the lack of resources,** including funding and skilled labor, which constrains the scale and consistency of interventions. **Data accessibility** poses another hurdle, as acquiring accurate, real-time information for evidence-based strategies is complex, particularly in underserved communities. Additionally, **technological disparities** restrict the ability to deploy digital tools for crime prevention.

Building **community trust** is critical but requires sustained effort to overcome skepticism stemming from historical injustices. In this context, **community-driven approache**s are essential. Programs that equip communities with tools such as conflict resolution, **restorative justice practices**, and **youth engagement** strategies can foster sustainable, long-term crime prevention. These interventions must be backed by **evidence-based frameworks** that measure their effectiveness and ensure cultural relevance, facilitating their integration into national and regional strategies.

Other challenges identified include a lack of cooperation between justice institutions and community stakeholders, hindering coordinated responses. Furthermore, cultural stigmas, particularly surrounding gender-based violence and substance abuse, discourage community engagement and reporting. Corruption within the justice system undermines trust, making it difficult to enforce laws effectively and equitably.

> *"My key recommendation to policymakers at the 15th UN Crime Congress is to invest in community-driven data collection and analysis systems to ensure that crime prevention strategies are informed by accurate, localized evidence. This approach will empower communities, address specific vulnerabilities, and foster trust between policymakers and grassroots actors, enabling tailored and impactful interventions." - NGO from Nigeria*

The civil society recommendations were reinforced by the outcomes of the African RPM, including the development of community-based programs that involve local stakeholders in the design and implementation of crime prevention strategies. Member States also emphasized the importance of utilizing evidence-based policies and disaggregated data to inform decision-making and tailor interventions to specific community needs. Another priority is to address the structural causes of criminality by implementing public policies related to education, culture, sports, health, and socioeconomic development. (Source: A/CONF.241/RPM.4/L.1/Add.1)

Building Resilient Societies: Focus on Women, Children, and Youth

Almost all the organizations that participated in the survey expressed a **strong interest and sensitivity in their commitment to protecting women and children,** as well as enhancing community engagement, education, and crime prevention policies. However, they face numerous challenges, including a **lack of resources** as described above.

Another major issue is the perceived insufficient support from governments and the lack of trust in the judicial system, which is often seen as ineffective in protecting women and youth.

Moreover, the lack of awareness regarding community rights and responsibilities was emphasized, compounded by the absence of participatory platforms. This can leave young people ill-prepared and disengaged from addressing societal issues. Additionally, resistance to change was observed in certain groups, stemming from cultural and communication barriers that hinder the adoption of new approaches and practices.

> *My key recommendation to policymakers at the 15th UN Crime Congress is to prioritize the integration of comprehensive, multi-sectoral strategies that combine legal protections, accessible education, and community-based interventions. This should focus on empowering women, children, and youth through legislation, safe spaces, vocational training, and mental health support. Additionally, fostering community engagement and enhancing partnerships with civil society will strengthen resilience, reduce vulnerabilities, and promote long-term social cohesion. - NGO from Malawi*

Member States at the RPM for Africa recommend promoting non-custodial measures and alternatives to imprisonment, ensuring rehabilitation and reintegration into society. They value the implementation of effective risk assessment tools and individualized case management. It is important to support post-release services, including vocational training, employment opportunities, and housing, as well as encourage public-private partnerships and community involvement in reintegration. Additionally, facilitating the exchange of good practices and technical assistance between countries is crucial. (A/CONF.241/RPM.4/L.1/Add.1)

Western Asia

The 15 respondents working in Western Asia pointed out the insufficiency of organized crime prevention measures and the inadequacy of digital forensic tools. To address these issues, civil society has called for better data collection mechanisms, stronger digital forensic capacities, and the promotion of digital education, particularly for women and girls.

Key Findings on Crime Prevention Strategies

One key recommendation is to:

"Establish national and international mechanisms for collecting and analyzing accurate data on crime and its influencing factors, ensuring data sharing among countries and civil society organizations to support the development and implementation of innovative, evidence-based preventive strategies." - NGO from Iraq

These approaches would **strengthen local capabilities**, empower communities, and improve the accessibility and effectiveness of crime prevention efforts through **inclusive and innovative methods**.

To address the root causes of crime, **Member States** at the RPM for West Asia urged for the development of community-based programs that involve local stakeholders in the design and implementation of crime prevention strategies. Evidence-based policies and disaggregated data should be utilized to inform decision-making and tailor interventions to specific community needs.

To address the structural causes of criminality, Member States are advising each other to implement public policies related to education, culture, sports, health, and socioeconomic development, and ensure the responsible use of technology, including artificial intelligence, in crime prevention efforts, with attention to ethical considerations and human rights. (Source: A/CONF.241/RPM.5/L.1/Add.1)

<u>Building Resilient Societies: Focus on Women, Children, and Youth</u>

Respondents stressed that some of the challenges they face when it comes to building more resilient societies are deeply systemic: **lack of free and mandatory education**, **gender inequality**, and **inadequate reintegration support for women after incarceration**. To address these challenges, survey participants recommend creating **dedicated funds for women,** strengthening protections for victims of digital sexual crimes, and reinforcing the freedoms and safety of civil society organizations. In particular, it is essential to:

"Create a supplementary fund to support women, bridge gaps in data collection, and support strategies that make women agents of change" - Individual expert from Lebanon

During the West Asia RPM, Member States recognized the importance of exploring restorative justice models in post-conflict and transitional settings. Fragile States, particularly those transitioning from authoritarian rule, should share experiences of judicial reforms. Member States further encourage strategies to ensure access to justice for marginalized communities, including displaced populations. (A/CONF.241/RPM.5/L.1/Add.3)

Agenda Item 02: People-Centered, Inclusive, and Responsive Criminal Justice Systems and Workshop Topic 02: Equal Access to Justice

Pertaining to agenda item 2 Promoting people-centered, inclusive and responsive criminal justice systems in a world of continuous change") and workshop topic 2 (equal access to justice for all: towards safe and secure societies while respecting the rule of law"), respondents were again asked to identify challenges and achievements as well as to formulate their key recommendations to policymakers at the 15th UN Crime Congress.

270 respondents indicated that they work on helping develop people-centered, inclusive, and responsive criminal justice systems, while 254 respondents indicated they work on equal access to justice.

Asia and the Pacific

Of the 270 organizations and experts whose work relates to agenda item 2 and/or workshop topic 2, 61 respondents indicated that they operate in the Asia-Pacific region. Compared to other regions, respondents from Asia and the Pacific placed a greater emphasis on modernizing criminal justice systems through technology and capacity-building, promoting legal assistance services, and overcoming geographical and digital barriers to justice.

Key Findings on People-Centered, Inclusive, and Responsive Criminal Justice Systems

Respondents emphasized the adoption and promotion of **restorative justice** approaches that prioritize victims and vulnerable groups, integrate gender and child protection considerations, and involve diverse stakeholders. They also highlighted the need for **modernization through technology**, **capacity building**, and **inter-agency coordination**.

The use of digital platforms for judicial procedures and citizen access to justice was widely supported, especially in remote areas. Strengthening capacity to deal with **cybercrime** and digital evidence, as well as **training practitioners** on transnational crime, were also seen as crucial. Promoting **fairness,** due process, and inclusivity was considered central to strengthening the rule of law. Key recommendations are, for example:

> *"Establish mandatory training programs for criminal justice professionals on trauma-informed and victim-centered practices, with a focus on addressing systemic biases and ensuring equitable access to justice for marginalized groups, including women, children, and minorities. These programs should be paired with robust monitoring mechanisms to evaluate their effectiveness and ensure continuous improvement." - NGO from India*

> *Implement restorative Justice and community-centred policing". - Individual expert from Pakistan.*

At the Asia and the Pacific RPM, **Member States** echoed many of these civil society insights. They called for the modernization of criminal justice systems through the integration of technology, capacity-building, and inter-agency coordination. The use of digital platforms to facilitate judicial procedures and improve citizen access to justice was widely supported, especially in remote areas. There was also a strong call to strengthen the capacity of law enforcement and the judiciary address cybercrime, electronic evidence, and the use of digital tools for investigations. Emphasis was placed on the need to train criminal justice practitioners to understand the evolving nature of transnational crime and adapt accordingly. Promoting fairness, due process, and inclusivity in judicial systems was seen as central to strengthening the rule of law.
(Source: A/CONF.241/RPM.3/L.1/Add.1)

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(Source: A/CONF.241/RPM.3/L.1/Add.1)

Equal Access to Justice

Policymakers are encouraged to **promote legal assistance** services that are accessible **to all individuals,** particularly marginalized and vulnerable groups. Emphasis was placed on **multisectoral collaboration**, restorative justice mechanisms, **improving awareness** of marginalized groups, promoting i**nternational cooperation,** advocating for policy promotion to ensure **equal access to justice**, and exploiting technologies to overcome language, digital, and geographical barriers. **Barriers to justice** include geographic isolation and linguistic diversity, with innovative solutions including legal aid models and mobile courts.

> *"Improve law enforcement and establish an independent mechanism to monitor anti-corruption law enforcement". - NGO from Cambodia*

> *"Build Frameworks and Standards in Crimes is key; however, it keeps evolving at a rapid pace for which the frameworks/standards need to evolve rapidly too. Creating Policy and Standards that are agile and robust at the same time is important for ensuring data collection and analysis integrity,"- Private sector company from India*

Similarly, Member States suggest expanding legal aid services and removing barriers that hinder disadvantaged groups from accessing justice. They recommend promoting alternative dispute resolution mechanisms to offer more efficient and amicable conflict resolution options. Finally, strengthening the capacity of legal institutions is highlighted as crucial for ensuring that they can effectively serve diverse populations and address their unique needs. These measures aim to ensure fairness, equity, and efficiency within the justice system. (Source: A/CONF.241/RPM.1/L.1/Add.1)

Latin America and the Caribbean

Agenda item 2 and/or workshop topic 2 received responses from 69 organizations from the region. According to the respondents, young people from vulnerable groups often face difficulties accessing proper legal representation and lack knowledge of their rights. At the same time, gender biases remain deeply entrenched in cases involving women, girls, and gender minorities. The inaccessibility of the criminal justice system, with intimidating legal processes, was also highlighted.

Key Findings on People-Centered, Inclusive, and Responsive Criminal Justice Systems

Respondents stressed the urgent need to **modernize and humanize criminal justice systems** by adopting an integrated, people-centered, and inclusive approach. Centering **youth-friendly**, **human rights-based**, and **gender-transformative approaches** requires reform that addresses root causes of systemic inequalities and amplifies the voices of those most affected. Key recommendations included :

"Greater investment in targeted and targeted prevention programs for groups most at risk of violence and social exclusion". - Academic institution from Chile

"Provide safe spaces for persons to come forward with relevant, useful information that not only lead to the apprehension of perpetrators, but strengthen the capacities of duty bearers (magistrates, court officers, etc.) to carry out their duties in a gender appropriate manner". - NGO from Trinidad de Tobago

Member States at the Latin America and Caribbean RPM emphasized the need to invest in the independence and efficiency of judicial institutions and ensuring access to justice for all, particularly marginalized and vulnerable groups such as women, Indigenous peoples, Afro-descendants, migrants, children, and persons with disabilities. The region called for policies that reduce over-incarceration, promote the use of alternatives to imprisonment, and strengthen rehabilitation and reintegration programs. The adoption of technologies for digital transformation–while safeguarding privacy and human rights–was encouraged, alongside technical assistance and regional cooperation to address shared challenges.
(A/CONF.241/RPM.2/L.1/Add.1)

Equal Access to Justice

Respondents noted that many individuals, particularly women, indigenous peoples, and those in poverty, face **systemic barriers** such as discrimination, lack of education, and geographic isolation, which result in overrepresentation of poor and discriminated populations in criminal justice systems and hinder many from accessing legal resources and representation. **Underfunded justice institutions** and the **underutilization of mediation** and r**estorative justice** were also noted. Justice systems are often not designed to be child-sensitive, potentially leading to negative outcomes.

Through **alternative justice mechanisms,** policymakers should ensure equitable opportunities for rehabilitation and reintegration, reducing reliance on incarceration. **Funding and support for capacity-building programs** for local justice facilitators are recommended, along with the importance of:

> *"To expand and improve legal aid and education programs, particularly for marginalized and vulnerable populations, ensuring that access to justice is free, equitable, and accessible to all".*
> *- NGO from Argentina*

Member States suggest **expanding legal aid services and removing barriers to justice for disadvantaged populations**. Strengthening the capacity of legal institutions is emphasized to ensure they can effectively serve diverse populations. Additionally, **implementing inclusive policies, such as offering free legal assistance and multilingual options**, is seen as essential for increasing accountability and ensuring fair access to justice. These recommendations aim to create a more equitable and effective justice system.
(Source: A/CONF.241/RPM.2/L.1/Add.2)

Europe and North America

31 European organizations responded to their work on Agenda item 2 and/or Workshop item 2. Respondents noted that, in some countries, individuals lack access to legal representation or support, hindering their ability to seek justice. Victims, especially women, children, and marginalized communities, often face significant barriers in accessing legal aid due to a lack of awareness, high costs, and systemic biases.

Key Findings on People-Centered, Inclusive, and Responsive Criminal Justice Systems

Respondents emphasized the need for a **balanced approach** that confronts challenges while leveraging reforms. According to the majority of respondents, an overreliance on incarceration, including excessive and arbitrary **pretrial detention**, **overcrowded facilities**, **straining prison management,** and **sidelining rehabilitative alternatives.** This especially affects vulnerable populations, who face heightened risks when deprived of their liberty. Incorporating more **non-custodial measures** is therefore urgently needed. Participants also expressed concern about the **lack of comprehensive and disaggregated data collection,** which hampers efforts to identify and address systemic inequalities.

Challenges also include **inadequate care for incarcerated pregnant, postpartum, and breastfeeding women**, as well as for LGBTIQ+ persons. Data-driven policies are needed. Key recommendations are:

> *"Prioritize the integration of restorative justice practices into national legal frameworks. Restorative justice emphasizes repairing harm through inclusive processes that engage victims, offenders, and the community, thereby fostering healing and rehabilitation." - NGO from the United Kingdom*

> *"Prioritize community-driven reform through participatory governance. Policymakers should establish mechanisms for marginalised communities to actively engage in shaping criminal justice policies and practices, ensuring systems are inclusive, equitable, and responsive to their needs." - NGO from the United Kingdom*

At the RPM, European participants emphasized the **need for criminal justice systems that are fair, effective, inclusive, and resilient**, particularly in the face of complex global challenges. They called for **inter-agency and multi-stakeholder cooperation to address systemic shortcomings and protect human rights**. A strong focus was placed on improving access to justice for all, especially for women, children, and vulnerable or marginalized communities, through measures such as legal aid, multilingual services, and procedural safeguards. **Restorative justice practices and community-based interventions were also promoted**. The integration of digital technologies was encouraged to enhance efficiency and transparency, while also implementing safeguards to protect data privacy and prevent the reinforcement of biases. Finally, participants underscored the importance of evidence-based policymaking and data collection. (Source: A/CONF.241/RPM.3/L.1/Add.1)

Equal Access to Justice

European civil society respondents highlighted **major barriers to justice, particularly for vulnerable groups such as women, children, and marginalized communities**. High legal costs, limited access to legal aid, and systemic inequalities disproportionately affect low-income accused persons and victims.

Cultural norms and **discrimination—based on gender, ethnicity, or socio-economic, status** further entrench unequal treatment. Respondents also noted a lack of trauma-informed practices, individualized assessments, and specialized training for justice personnel. Additional challenges include inadequate translation services, poor victim protection, and limited awareness of legal rights, especially in rural areas. It is recommended to:

"Establish a Global Justice Access Initiative to systematically address barriers to justice and ensure equal access for all, particularly for marginalized and vulnerable populations. The initiative should focus on integrating technology, legal empowerment, and targeted support mechanisms to create inclusive and people-centred justice systems."
- NGO from Greece

"Strengthen legal aid, judicial transparency, and protections for investigative journalists and whistleblowers to ensure accountability and equal access to justice for marginalized communities." - NGO from North Macedonia

In parallel, Member States, at the European Regional Preparatory Meeting, focused on **structural reforms, advocating for greater investment in non-custodial sentences and proximity justice services to promote rehabilitation over incarceration**. They emphasized the importance of **training justice professionals to recognize hidden vulnerabilities and enhancing the system's responsiveness to diversity**. Additional priorities included improving victim support services and collecting disaggregated data to identify systemic gaps and guide evidence-based policymaking. (Source: A/CONF.241/RPM.3/L.1/Add.2)

Africa

101 African civil society representatives reported working on issues related to Agenda item 2 and/or Workshop item 2. Key challenges identified include persistent gender bias and discrimination within law enforcement and judicial institutions, particularly affecting women and marginalized groups in rural areas. Additionally, respondents highlighted limited resources, inadequate training on human rights, gender-sensitive procedures, and a shortage of public defenders.

<u>Key Findings on People-Centered, Inclusive, and Responsive Criminal Justice Systems</u>

Respondents emphasized the need to build trust between justice institutions and communities **through transparency, accountability**, and community-oriented policing. The need to improve the **accessibility and fairness of justice processes** for vulnerable groups was widely recognized. They called for g**ender-sensitive reforms**, greater **representation of women in leadership roles within justice systems**, and the **integration of traditional and customary justice mechanisms,** provided these align with human rights standards.

"One key recommendation to policymakers at the 15th UN Crime Congress is to prioritize the integration of gender-sensitive and human rights-based approaches into criminal justice systems. This approach would ensure that the needs and rights of all individuals, particularly marginalized groups such as women, children, and persons with disabilities, are fully recognized and addressed within justice processes. By strengthening the capacity of law enforcement and judicial bodies to respond to diverse needs and ensuring accountability for human rights violations, criminal justice systems can become more inclusive, responsive, and effective in promoting public safety, justice, and equality". - NGO from Nigeria

Additional concerns included corruption, impunity, slow case processing, and over-reliance on punitive measures, which contribute to prison overcrowding and human rights violations. Weak victim support and political interference further undermine the justice system's impartiality.

At the African Regional Preparatory Meeting, **Member States** echoed many civil society concerns, particularly the need to strengthen trust and accountability through community-based justice approaches. They also supported gender-sensitive reforms, greater inclusion of women, and the integration of traditional justice systems with formal institutions, in line with human rights norms.
In addition, Member States emphasized the development of national crime prevention strategies in collaboration with communities and local governments to address the root causes of crime, an area less emphasized by CSOs but complementary in approach. (A/CONF.241/RPM.4/L.1/Add.1)

Equal Access to Justice

Access to justice remains central for the protection of fair trial rights, victim protection and legal empowerment, as well as building trust in institutions. Respondents identified **inequitable access to justice** as a major concern, particularly for low-income groups, women, children, and refugees. Barriers such as high legal costs, limited legal awareness, and delays in case processing erode public trust and hinder timely redress.

"My key recommendation is to establish and scale community-based legal aid and support systems that provide accessible, affordable, and inclusive justice services, particularly for marginalized and underserved populations." - NGO from Nigeria

Survey participants also highlighted resource constraints, including limited funding and a shortage of trained personnel, which hinder their ability to scale up services. They called for **reduced legal costs**, **simplified procedures**, and **broad public awareness campaigns**. Corruption within judicial systems was cited as a major obstacle, reinforcing the **need for greater transparency, accountability, and community engagement.**

Similarly, at the African Regional Preparatory Meeting, Member States advocated for the expansion of legal aid, removal of structural barriers, and promotion of alternative dispute resolution mechanisms. They also emphasized the importance of strengthening institutional capacity and implementing inclusive policies, such as free legal assistance and multilingual services, to ensure fair and equitable access to justice for all. (Source: A/CONF.241/RPM.4/L.1/Add.1)

Western Asia

The 13 respondents from Western Asia highlighted limited access to restorative justice and insufficient youth engagement in justice processes.

Key Findings on People-Centered, Inclusive, and Responsive Criminal Justice Systems

Respondents urged for the creation of **community-based legal support centers,** more investment in **restorative justice practices**, and **academic partnerships** to support inclusive justice reforms. Many participants pointed out that emphasizing restorative and creative approaches can foster a more constructive, participatory, and forward-looking legal culture, particularly among **young people** and **marginalized communities.**

One key recommendation emphasizes the importance of strengthening:

"Capacity building, logistical arrangements, establishment of specialized offices, and the allocation of academic and scientific pathways in this field". - Individual expert from Lebanon

During the Regional Preparatory Meeting for Western Asia **Member States** expressed that to effectively address the rehabilitation of returning foreign terrorist fighters, regional cooperation mechanisms should be developed, incorporating deradicalization programs. This approach should be complemented by strengthened access to vocational training and education in detention facilities, tailored to meet the specific needs of local labor markets.

-release reintegration efforts can be enhanced through community-based partnerships and family reintegration services. Additionally, promoting public-private partnerships is crucial in reducing the stigma against former offenders, with a particular focus on women and juveniles.
(Source: A/CONF.241/RPM.5/L.1/Add.1)

Equal Access to Justice

Challenges mentioned by respondents include poor prison conditions and a lack of legal awareness among marginalized populations.
To address these issues effectively, it is vital to:

"Establish and fund accessible, community-based legal support centers that integrate restorative justice practices, utilize technology for transparency, and prioritize the inclusion of marginalized groups to rebuild trust and ensure equal access to justice for all." - NGO from Iraq

Member States highlighted the need to enhance access to justice, particularly for vulnerable groups, by expanding legal aid services and removing barriers to justice. The promotion of alternative dispute resolution methods was encouraged. Additionally, strengthening the capacity of legal institutions to serve diverse populations is emphasized. Lastly, the implementation of inclusive policies, including free legal aid and multilingual support, is essential to ensure accountability and improve overall access to justice.
(Source: A/CONF.241/RPM.5/L.1/Add.1)

Agenda Item 03: New, Emerging, and Evolving Forms of Crime and Workshop Topic 3: Getting ahead: strengthening data collection and analysis to better protect people and planet in times of new, emerging and evolving forms of crime

Pertaining to **Agenda item 3** ("Addressing and countering crime – including organized crime and terrorism in all its forms and manifestations – in new, emerging and evolving forms") and **Workshop topic 3** (" Getting ahead: strengthening data collection and analysis to better protect people and planet in times of new, emerging and evolving forms of crime;"), respondents were asked to identify challenges and achievements as well as to formulate their key recommendation to policymakers at the 15th UN Crime Congress.

A total of **334 respondents** indicated that they work on new, emerging, and evolving forms of crime, while **193 respondents** reported working on strengthening data collection and analysis.

Asia and the Pacific

Of the 334 organizations and experts working on Agenda item 3 and/or Workshop topic 3, **73 operate in the Asia-Pacific region**. Respondents from this region placed **particular emphasis on the growth of cybercrime, environmental crimes, and transnational organized crime.** They underscored challenges faced by Pacific Island countries due to limited resources.

Respondents highlighted the **need for inclusive, victim-centered, and community-driven strategies to protect vulnerable groups, along with** enhanced capacity building and multi-stakeholder collaboration.

Key Findings on New, Emerging, and Evolving Forms of Crime

Respondents noted the increasing sophistication of criminal tactics and emphasized the need for professionals and youth to be trained to recognize and respond effectively to these threats.

A key recommendation was to strengthen cross-border collaboration—both at the government and community levels—to enhance data collection, which is seen as fundamental for building people-centered, inclusive, and responsive justice systems.

> *"Policymakers should establish regional and international multi-stakeholder collaboration hubs to promote technical assistance, capacity-building, and knowledge-sharing in crime prevention and criminal justice". - NGO from India*

Another recommendation urged the creation of global cooperative frameworks that prioritize capacity-building in under-resourced areas, integrate technology for real-time crime detection, and foster inclusive governance to bolster community resilience. Member States echoed these priorities, emphasizing the importance of enhanced international cooperation through joint operations, the development of legal frameworks for addressing emerging threats, and investments in law enforcement technology and training.

> *"Improve data collection, monitoring, and reporting mechanisms to track progress towards [SDG] 16 targets and identify areas for improvement. This involves establishing robust indicators, conducting regular assessments, and promoting data transparency and accessibility". - NGO from Bangladesh.*

Key Findings on Strengthening Data Collection and Analysis

> *"Integrate technology across ... borders for preventing and combating human trafficking. ... Involve all stakeholders". - Individual expert from India*

Respondents reported **limited capacity for systematic crime data collection**, particularly in Pacific Island nations. They called for enhanced **international cooperation and capacity building to improve** regional **crime statistics**. A key recommendation was the establishment of **centralized, ethically governed data-sharing frameworks** that include diverse stakeholders, from government agencies to civil society, academia, and the private sector.

International cooperation between NGOs and the private sector was seen as crucial for pooling resources and facilitating joint data efforts. At the Regional Preparatory Meeting, Member States supported standardizing data collection methods to inform policy-making and monitor progress, while ensuring data privacy and building public trust. (Source: A/CONF.241/RPM.1/L.1/Add.1)

Latin America and the Caribbean

80 organizations from Latin America and the Caribbean responded. They emphasized that **the root causes of human trafficking are deeply intertwined with poverty, inequality, restrictive migration regimes, and exploitative employment practices.** The expansion of cybercrime and crimes that affect the environment continues to be noted.

Key Findings on New, Emerging, and Evolving Forms of Crime

Respondents advocated for frameworks co-designed with survivors, youth, civil society, and trade unions. **A key recommendation was to bolster international cooperation and information sharing to counter emerging crimes, while ensuring that criminal justice systems remain inclusive and people-centered.**

> *"Establish and improve multi-stakeholder, regional hubs for collaborative crime prevention and criminal justice that focus on enhancing technical, material, and training support for law enforcement and criminal justice systems across national, regional, and international levels". - NGO from Argentina*

> *"Promote greater participation of society in policy and law enforcement decisions." - NGO from Mexico*

Member States at the Regional Preparatory Meeting showed the need for joint operations, stronger legal frameworks, and increased use of disaggregated data to foster fairness and effectiveness in criminal justice systems.

Key Findings on Strengthening Data Collection and Analysis

Data-sharing gaps due to incompatible systems and a lack of reliable data on trafficking in persons were major concerns. Respondents recommended using data analytics to map trafficking patterns and guide targeted interventions.

"Establish and fund centralized, multi-stakeholder data hubs for the collection and analysis of emerging crime trends, ensuring these hubs integrate input from law enforcement, civil society, technology experts, and international organizations". - NGO from Argentina

Underreporting, lack of digital tools, and victim vulnerability were cited as obstacles to effective data collection.

"Develop safe spaces for reporting that do not endanger the people who report. Use information for early response and don't wait until these violating processes are consolidated". - NGO from Costa Rica

Member States at the Regional Preparatory Meeting stressed the need for standardized, privacy-compliant data systems. Data-driven policy was seen as essential for addressing crime trends. (Source: A/CONF.241/RPM.1/L.1/Add.1)

Europe and North America

48 organizations contributed from Europe. The increasing reliance on digital platforms poses challenges in keeping pace with cybercrime. Many emerging and evolving forms of crime are transnational, requiring strong international cooperation.

Key Findings on New, Emerging, and Evolving Forms of Crime

Respondents called for stronger cross-border cooperation, including more efficient information exchange and the establishment of coordinated mechanisms for asset seizure and victim compensation. Technology has enabled increased trafficking and fraud, with digital divides deepening vulnerabilities. Forced fraud is emerging as a form of trafficking in persons.

Recommendations included **a global framework on juvenile crime prevention** and enhanced international collaboration.

> *My key recommendation ... is to strengthen international cooperation and information-sharing frameworks to effectively address emerging crimes, while ensuring that criminal justice systems remain people-centered, inclusive, and responsive. This can be accomplished by enhancing global collaboration ... as well as integrating technological tools and training into criminal justice systems, ensuring that law enforcement agencies and legal institutions are equipped to respond to emerging threats. - NGO from the United States of America*

Member States suggested tackling the interconnectedness of organized crime, corruption, and terrorism, including disrupting financing mechanisms. Strengthening border controls and prison intelligence will help dismantle transnational criminal networks, and a "follow-the-money" approach is critical for asset recovery and anti-money laundering efforts. (Source: A/CONF.241/RPM.3/L.1/Add.1)

Key Findings on Strengthening Data Collection and Analysis

Stakeholders emphasized that inconsistent and inaccessible data hinders coordinated responses. Linking crime databases and simplifying access to research were key recommendations.
Calls were made for policies to improve transparency and funding to implement data-strategies.

> *"Make sure there are resources in place to implement any recommendation in the countries of origin and non-EU countries in Europe." - NGO from Bosnia and Herzegovina*

Member States supported investments in AI and digital technologies for trend analysis, alongside protections for privacy and data rights. Partnerships with academia and civil society were encouraged to inform evidence-based decisions. (Source: A/CONF.241/RPM.3/L.1/Add.1)

Africa

With 120 responses, Africa's submissions pointed to technology outpacing law enforcement capabilities, limited cross-border collaboration, and underfunded systems as major barriers to tackling organized crime.

Key Findings on New, Emerging, and Evolving Forms of Crime

Respondents emphasized that **many emerging and evolving crimes are transnational in nature**, requiring international collaboration. Victims often go unrecognized due to under-reporting and existing community vulnerabilities. A key recommendation was that policymakers should ensure community-based and restorative justice approaches are integrated into strategies for addressing new, emerging, and evolving forms of crime. This can be achieved by creating frameworks that enable collaboration between local communities, law enforcement, and international agencies, ensuring that justice systems remain responsive to the needs of vulnerable populations.

> *Policymakers at the 15th UN Crime Congress should prioritize the establishment of a Global Crime Prevention Innovation Fund to support the development and implementation of adaptive, people-centred strategies. - NGO from Uganda*

Inclusive public education and empowerment were seen as vital for prevention, especially the cases of forced scamming.
(Source: A/CONF.241/RPM.4/L.1/Add.1)

Key Findings on Strengthening Data Collection and Analysis

Respondents stressed the importance of technology in prevention, but noted that justice systems often lack modern tools. **Data collection and analysis remain significant challenges due to fragmented collaboration and limited data sharing.** The rapid evolution of digital crimes further complicates the gathering and analysis of data. Privacy and ethical concerns present a major obstacle when handling sensitive information. Balancing comprehensive data collection with individual rights and privacy protections is a complex but crucial task.

> *"Establish international standards and guidelines for the ethical use of emerging technologies in crime prevention and criminal justice, focusing on privacy protection, accountability, and transparency. This would ensure that technologies are used responsibly, without infringing on human rights, and enhance global cooperation in preventing and addressing crimes through secure and fair technological solutions." - NGO from Nigeria*

Similarly, Member States at the Regional Preparatory Meeting emphasized the importance of strengthening data systems and establishing standardized methods for collecting and analyzing disaggregated data, as well as encouraging the responsible use of innovative technologies. They also stressed the need to protect data privacy and uphold public trust. (Source: A/CONF.241/RPM.4/L.1/Add.1)

Western Asia

13 organizations from Western Asia responded to Agenda item 3 and/or Workshop topic 3. Respondents identified cybercrime, environmental crime, and transnational offenses as rapidly evolving threats requiring better legal alignment and cooperation.

<u>Key Findings on New, Emerging, and Evolving Forms of Crime</u>

Recommendations included developing a centralized UN risk management system and applying a human-centered approach to justice system reform.

> *Strengthening criminal justice systems by adopting a human-centered approach that promotes prevention and empowers vulnerable groups (youth and women) to actively participate in the development and implementation of policies, while integrating technology and innovation to ensure inclusive and responsive justice. - Individual expert from Tunisia*

Key recommendations from Member States stress the need for enhanced international cooperation in combating cybercrime and transnational organized crime through better information sharing and joint operations. Developing robust legal frameworks is crucial for addressing emerging challenges, such as environmental crimes and illicit financial flows. Investing in advanced technology and providing training for law enforcement are necessary steps to keep up with and stay ahead of evolving criminal techniques. (Source: A/CONF.241/RPM.5/L.1/Add.1)

Key Findings on Strengthening Data Collection and Analysis

Respondents identified gaps in data standardization, training, and institutional trust. They highlighted the vital role of civil society in data gathering, particularly in addressing underreported crimes such as wildlife trafficking.

"Improve data collection through organizations and public and private partnerships, providing legal and administrative consultations; develop comprehensive action plans and official reports to be submitted to the United Nations."

Similarly, **the key recommendations from Member States emphasized** the need to establish standardized data collection methods to inform policy decisions and track progress. Additionally, there was a strong emphasis on the responsible use of innovative technological tools to enhance transparency and implement evidence-based strategies. (Source: A/CONF.241/RPM.5/L.1/Add.1)

Agenda Item 04: Cooperation and partnerships in crime prevention and criminal justice and Workshop Topic 4: Turning the digital age into an opportunity: promoting the responsible use of technologies in crime prevention and criminal justice.

Pertaining to agenda item 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") and workshop topic 4 ("Turning the digital age into an opportunity: promoting the responsible use of technologies in crime prevention and criminal justice"), respondents were asked to identify challenges and achievements as well as to formulate their key recommendation to policymakers at the 15th UN Crime Congress.

253 respondents indicated that they work on international cooperation, while 190 respondents reported working on promoting the responsible use of technologies.

Asia and the Pacific

63 respondents indicated that they work in the Asia-Pacific region.

Key Findings on Cooperation and Partnerships

Respondents emphasized **regional mechanisms such as the Pacific Islands Forum and UNODC technical assistance.** There was strong support for South-South cooperation and public-private partnerships to advance crime prevention. A central proposal was the creation of regional and international collaboration hubs to facilitate technical assistance, capacity building, and cross-sectoral knowledge exchange. Key actions should include **creating platforms for cross-sector partnerships, allocating resources for technical support, and standardizing training** to strengthen national and regional capacities, ensuring responses to crime are unified, effective, and inclusive.

Member States similarly proposed fostering partnerships between governments, civil society, and the private sector to leverage resources and expertise, promoting the responsible use of technology, and providing technical assistance and capacity-building to developing countries. (Source: A/CONF.241/RPM.1/L.1/Add.1)

Fostering Responsible Use of Technology

Stakeholders noted both the risks (online abuse, digital exclusion) and benefits (digital legal services, tech-enabled case management) of emerging technologies. **One key recommendation was to establish a global framework for digital ethics education, integrating mandatory digital literacy programs** in schools.

"Establish a global framework for digital ethics education, focusing on responsible technology use in crime prevention and criminal justice. This framework should integrate mandatory digital literacy programs into educational institutions, equipping students, educators, and communities with knowledge about online safety, ethical behavior, and emerging technologies like AI. Coupled with international collaboration to share best practices and innovations, this initiative can empower societies to harness technology responsibly, reducing its misuse while strengthening its role in building safer, more equitable justice systems." - academic institution from India.

Member states also suggested developing ethical guidelines for the use of artificial intelligence, addressing digital divides, and encouraging innovation while safeguarding human rights. (Source: A/CONF.241/RPM.1/L.1/Add.1)

Latin America and the Caribbean

63 civil society stakeholders contributed from this region.

Key Findings on Cooperation and Partnerships

Respondents highlighted a lack of cross-sector coordination, barriers to civil society involvement, and resource limitations. Community trust in law enforcement was noted as fragile. Key proposals included **centralized digital platforms for data-sharing,** training, and equitable access to technology.)

"Developing public policies in coordination with CSOs working on territorialization helps develop effective government projects and plans that reach the most vulnerable populations. Designing projects with women and children in mind, taking into account their potential and abilities". - NGO from Argentina

"Involve parents and guardians in discussions to raise awareness and build a protective network around youth". NGO from Mexico

Member States also highlighted the importance of encouraging collaboration between governments, civil society, and the private sector to maximize resources and expertise. This involves advocating for the ethical deployment of technology, offering technical support and capacity-building initiatives, fostering innovative research, deepening partnerships with civil society, and ensuring the active participation of communities. (Source: A/CONF.241/RPM.2/L.1/Add.2)

Fostering Responsible Use of Technology

Respondents identified a significant gap in access to technology between urban and rural areas, resulting in inequalities in the implementation of technology–driven crime prevention measures. **Many communities lack the necessary skills and understanding to navigate digital platforms safely and responsibly**.

Another recommendation was to **develop international regulatory frameworks that ensure the protection of individual privacy, data security, and help improve cross-border cooperation** in preventing digital crime, while improving criminal justice responses.

> *"Greater outreach and knowledge sharing on responsible use of technologies, highlighting the many sophisticated and new ways of cyber crime." - NGO from Trinidad and Tobago*

During the RPM, Member States also highlighted the importance of ensuring the ethical use of technology, addressing digital divides, encouraging innovation while safeguarding human rights, and implementing frameworks and accountability mechanisms for the use of force by law enforcement. (Source: A/CONF.241/RPM.2/L.1/Add.2)

> *"Develop international regulatory frameworks that ensure the protection of individual privacy, data security, and cross-border cooperation to prevent digital crime and improve criminal justice responses."- NGO from Mexico*

Europe and North America

35 European organizations contributed input related to Agenda Item 4 and/or Workshop Topic 4.

Key Findings on Cooperation and Partnerships

Stakeholders identified internal fragmentation within government agencies, particularly in law enforcement.
Public-private partnerships were seen as playing a key role in leveraging additional resources and implementing innovative solutions.
Respondents proposed a centralized hub for international collaboration, resource sharing, and capacity building.

> *"Creation of a Global Crime Prevention and Justice Partnership Platform (GCPJPP) to serve as a centralized hub for fostering international collaboration, resource sharing, and capacity building in crime prevention and criminal justice. The hub should be supported by digital platforms, to enhance real time information sharing, joint training programs and resource pooling across nations. The hub should prioritize building trust, aligning legal frameworks, and leveraging technology like AI and blockchain for transnational crime tracking and prevention, ensuring that even the most resource-constrained nations can actively participate and benefit." - NGO from UK*

Member States similarly suggested enhancing international cooperation in tackling cybercrime, trafficking, organized crime, and maritime crime, promoting joint investigations, mutual legal assistance, and asset recovery through digital platforms, cooperating with the private sector and academic institutions, adopting international instruments, building digital infrastructure, and investing in sustainable technical assistance and training. (Source: A/CONF.241/RPM.3/L.1/Add.1)

Fostering Responsible Use of Technology

Respondents noted that the use of technology in crime prevention and criminal justice has become a priority for all countries, calling for state and corporate accountability in technology deployment, prioritizing victim-centered approaches, privacy, and due process.

> *"Prioritize accountability, including State, non-state, and corporate accountability, in the development and deployment of technologies, including existing and emerging technologies, ensuring that when technologies are used in criminal justice processes that human rights are respected online as well as offline, that victims are educated about all of their rights, and keeping the best interests and the rights of the victim at the center of all processes."- NGO from United Kingdom*

Member States also **supported the responsible use of AI, with human oversight, transparency, and fairness, aiming to streamline judicial processes** while respecting privacy and due process.
One key recommendation was to train justice authorities in digital evidence handling and tech-based investigations, as well as to promote international standards for AI in law enforcement. Facilitating global knowledge exchange on best practices for digital transformation in justice was also underscored. (Source: A/CONF.241/RPM.3/L.1/Add.1)

Africa

93 respondents contributed from across the African continent.

Key Findings on Cooperation and Partnerships

Respondents reported challenges such as jurisdictional fragmentation, resource scarcity, and mistrust between the public and private sectors. Recommendations included forming cross-sector task forces, investing in cybersecurity training, and creating regional cooperation platforms.

"Policymakers should invest in cross-sector collaboration through formalized partnerships between law enforcement, private security providers, and technology companies to enhance cybersecurity and digital crime prevention efforts. Creating public-private task forces with shared access to data, intelligence, and resources can facilitate a more agile response to new crime trends. Additionally, regional and international training programs focused on cybersecurity, digital forensics, and advanced surveillance techniques should be prioritized to ensure that security personnel are equipped with the necessary skills to prevent and respond to modern crime, ensuring robust international cooperation in tackling transnational crime." - NGO from Nigeria

Member States recommend strengthening justice systems to address organized crime, corruption, terrorism, and emerging threats through people-centered and evidence-based approaches, utilizing digital technologies responsibly, investing in prevention by addressing the root causes of crime, and ensuring inclusive justice systems.
(Source: A/CONF.241/RPM.4/L.1/Add.1)

Fostering Responsible Use of Technology

The responsible use of technology remains a priority for most respondents, who are committed to protecting privacy and fundamental rights. **However, these efforts face numerous challenges, particularly regarding the availability of adequate resources. In many developing regions, law enforcement agencies struggle with insufficient resources and outdated technologies. Furthermore, a significant technology gap exists between urban and rural areas**.

> *"Establish clear, comprehensive ethical frameworks that govern the use of emerging technologies in criminal justice. These should focus on transparency, accountability, and data privacy protections, ensuring that technologies are used fairly, without bias, and in compliance with human rights." - NGO from Malawi*

Balancing the use of technology for crime prevention with the need to protect individual rights is a complex issue. **Technologies such as AI and big data analytics can provide valuable insights to law enforcement, but there are growing concerns regarding surveillance, data misuse, and privacy violations. Additionally, the use of technologies like AI algorithms for predictive policing carries the risk of bias**. This can exacerbate disparities and lead to unfair targeting of marginalized communities. As part of these efforts, it is also crucial to prevent the exploitation of youth, particularly in the digital environment, where emerging technologies can be misused. Ensuring the ethical deployment of technology must include a strong child protection dimension.
(Source: A/CONF.241/RPM.4/L.1/Add.1)

West Asia

Key Findings on Cooperation and Partnerships
The 12 respondents highlighted the need for improved collaboration between local institutions and international bodies, advocating for a multi-stakeholder platform and targeted funding to support cross-border efforts and technical capacity-building.

Specifically, they stressed the importance of international organizations continuing to collaborate closely with governments and aligning their work with the Sustainable Development Goals.

"Capacity building, logistical arrangements, establishment of specialized offices, and the allocation of academic and scientific pathways in this field." - Individual expert from Tunisia

Member States called for a regional declaration to reflect priorities, along with strengthening international cooperation, addressing emerging crime, and protecting human rights. (Source: A/CONF.241/RPM.5/L.1/Add.1)

<u>Key Findings on Cooperation and Partnerships</u>

While technology holds great promise, disparities in access and the lack of clear regulations create vulnerabilities. **Respondents stressed the importance of international training programs and coordinated cybercrime strategies.**

"Policymakers should prioritize the establishment of comprehensive, international ethical standards and regulatory frameworks for the use of emerging technologies in crime prevention and criminal justice, ensuring they are transparent, accountable, and uphold human rights"- Private sector company from the United Arab Emirates

Member States also suggested some key recommendations, including the promotion of the responsible and human rights-based use of emerging technologies by establishing clear ethical and operational standards, bridging technological and infrastructure gaps, fostering innovation in law enforcement while upholding safeguards, and strengthening legal and institutional mechanisms to monitor and regulate the use of force by law enforcement agencies. (Source: A/CONF.241/RPM.5/L.1/Add.1)

Common findings from governments and civil society.

Asia Pacific Region

Concerning the **Asia-Pacific region**, Member States (as mentioned in A/CONF.241/RPM.1/L.1/Add.1) and CSOs expressed a shared commitment to **strengthening crime prevention and criminal justice systems** to tackle global challenges such as organized crime, terrorism, corruption, and environmental offenses, with an emphasis on equality and human rights. Key priorities include **enhancing international cooperation**, particularly through data sharing, joint investigations, and capacity-building, while supporting developing countries and partnering with the UNODC. (as mentioned in A/CONF.241/RPM.1/L.1/Add.5)

The responsible use of **digital technologies** is also central, with a focus on protecting rights, preventing cybercrime, and modernizing training (as mentioned in A/CONF.241/RPM.1/L.1/Add.5). **Raising awareness** among vulnerable groups is considered essential. (as mentioned in A/CONF.241/RPM.1/L.1/Add.1). **Inclusive access to justice** and the empowerment of youth, women, and children are emphasized, alongside education and reintegration efforts to reduce reoffending. (as mentioned in A/CONF.241/RPM.1/L.1/Add.1). **Environmental protection** should be integrated into crime strategies, with both Member States and CSOs calling for stronger legal frameworks and alignment with sustainable development goals. (as mentioned in A/CONF.241/RPM.1/L.1/Add.2)

Lastly, both Member States and civil society representatives underline the **importance of multi-stakeholder partnerships** to ensure coordinated, transparent, and evidence-based responses to both traditional and emerging forms of crime. (as mentioned in A/CONF.241/RPM.1/L.1/Add.5)

Latin America and Caribbean Region

With regard to the **Latin America and Caribbean region**, the recommendations of Member States and civil society align on many issues. There is a shared emphasis on the **need to promote integrated solutions to crime prevention**, addressing both social and judicial dimensions. In particular, both sides underscore the importance of **strengthening collaboration among the private sector, local governments, civil society**, and other relevant stakeholders to prevent and combat emerging forms of crime more effectively. (as mentioned in A/CONF.241/RPM.2/L.1/Add.5).

At the international level, there is a common **commitment to enhancing cooperation among states**, notably through global initiatives and the sharing of data, good practices, and models. (as mentioned in A/CONF.241/RPM.2/L.1/Add.5).

In addition, both Member States and civil society highlight the **crucial role of the judicial system** in adopting **technological tools** while ensuring strict adherence to ethical standards and privacy protections (as mentioned in A/CONF.241/RPM.2/L.1/Add.5).

Europe and North America Region

The recommendations from Member States (as mentioned in A/CONF.241/RPM.3/L.1/Add.2) and CSOs (as mentioned in the Preliminary Analysis for Europe and North-America) from Europe and North America emphasize the need to s**trengthen international cooperation** and **harmonize legal frameworks** to address global challenges such as organized crime, terrorism, and corruption. A central priority is the creation of **a global capacity-building framework** focused on enhancing international collaboration through data sharing, joint investigations, and training initiatives (as mentioned in A/CONF.241/RPM.3/L.1/Add.2)

The recommendations also highlight the importance of **building inclusive and accessible justice systems**. Free legal aid, multilingual services, and increased institutional accountability are crucial to addressing barriers faced by marginalized groups. (as mentioned in A/CONF.241/RPM.3/L.1/Add.2).

Ensuring that **inclusive justice is both a principle and a practice**, embedded in everyday systems, is a key goal. (as mentioned in A/CONF.241/RPM.3/L.1/Add.2).

Community engagement is seen as vital for achieving long-term impact. Empowering local actors in the design and implementation of justice and crime prevention strategies is considered essential. This includes investing in community-led initiatives, particularly for marginalized groups, and promoting **educational programs that foster legal awareness and a culture of lawfulness, especially among young people**. (as mentioned in A/CONF.241/RPM.3/L.1/Add.2).

Finally, there is a strong emphasis on **evidence-based policies**, with a focus on collecting **inclusive and reliable data** to monitor access to justice, identify systemic disparities, and understand community needs. Stakeholders stress the importance of establishing secure and standardized data collection systems, while ensuring the protection of victims' data and privacy. (as mentioned in A/CONF.241/RPM.3/L.1/Add.2).

Africa Region

An analysis of the recommendations put forward by Member States and civil society representatives (as mentioned in the Civil Society Coordination Meeting prior to the Regional Preparatory Meeting for Africa) reveals several shared priorities for the **Africa region**. Both groups emphasize the importance of promoting **transparency and community oversight** as key strategies to combat corruption and emerging forms of crime, including organized crime. (as mentioned in A/CONF.241/RPM.4/L.1/Add.5).

There is also strong consensus on the need to **empower youth and women**, particularly by encouraging their active participation in civil society. (as mentioned in A/CONF.241/RPM.4/L.1/Add.2) Additionally, both Member States and civil society highlight the **importance of enhancing cooperation** on post-release reintegration and the protection of victims. (as mentioned in A/CONF.241/RPM.4/L.1/Add.2).

Another central theme is the **responsible use of technology**, including emerging tools such as artificial intelligence, to safeguard privacy and uphold ethical standards. (as mentioned in A/CONF.241/RPM.4/L.1/Add.5). The need to **strengthen data sharing and analytical capacity** is also considered crucial for informed policy and decision-making. (as mentioned in A/CONF.241/RPM.4/L.1/Add.5).

Finally, both parties underscore the crucial role of the **judicial system**. There is a shared commitment to ensuring **equal access to justice**, especially in remote areas, and to providing adequate training for judicial authorities to effectively and fairly address the crimes under investigation. (as mentioned in A/CONF.241/RPM.4/L.1/Add.2).

Western Asia Region

The **Western Asia** region highlighted several key and widely supported recommendations among civil society representatives (please refer to the Preliminary Analysis of Western Asia) and Member States. A central focus was placed on justice, with particular emphasis on the need to implement **restorative justice approaches**, especially in cases involving minor crimes. These approaches aim to promote rehabilitation, reconciliation, and reintegration, rather than relying solely on punitive measures. (as mentioned in the A/CONF.241/RPM.5/L.1/Add.5).

Moreover, the importance of **strengthening regional and international cooperation** was strongly emphasized, not only in the area of justice, but also in data sharing and strategic coordination. (as mentioned in the A/CONF.241/RPM.5/L.1/Add.5). Stakeholders called for the **active involvement of the United Nations in supporting the development of a centralized risk assessment system** and a shared action plan, to effectively address emerging threats through a collaborative and unified framework. (as mentioned in the A/CONF.241/RPM.5/L.1/Add.5).

Ways Forward

Building on insights from over 300 civil society organizations and experts, the Alliance is committed to a meaningful engagement leading up to the 15th UN Crime Congress in April 2025. We will ensure Member States have direct access to civil society expertise so that the Abu Dhabi Declaration reflects community-centred perspectives on crime prevention, justice and human rights. As the civil society umbrella body for the Congress, the Alliance will gather further insights from multi-stakeholders to produce a Civil Society Declaration in parallel. This complementary text will capture broader grassroots priorities and best practices that may exceed the scope of the multilateral declaration.

In close collaboration with the UNODC Civil Society Unit and the Secretariat of the Governing Bodies, the Alliance will support civil society groups in preparing for and participating in the upcoming Crime Congress. By maintaining an inclusive dialogue and fostering multi-stakeholder partnerships, we aim to reaffirm the spirit of partnership the UN Crime Congresses have had since their inception in 1955. We are eagerly anticipating the stakeholder labs, a dedicated stakeholder-led space for discussions, workshops, and networking events. Together, we will help shape a more just, equitable and community-driven set of approaches to crime prevention and criminal justice.

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