

FOURTH UNITED NATIONS CONGRESS ON THE PREVENTION  
OF CRIME AND THE TREATMENT OF OFFENDERS

By resolution 415 (V) of 1 December 1950, the General Assembly of the United Nations provided for the convening every five years of an International Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders. The First Congress was held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, in 1955; the Second Congress, with the Government of the United Kingdom acting as host, at Church House and Carlton House, London in 1960; and the Third Congress, with the Government of Sweden acting as host, at Folkets Hus, Stockholm, in 1965.

The Fourth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders will be held at International Conference Hall, Kyoto, Japan, from 17-26 August 1970. The Government of Japan will act as host.

Under established practice, the Congress will group three categories of participants, namely:

(1) Members officially appointed by their Governments, who are experts in the field of social defence or are directly concerned with policies and programmes affecting the prevention and control of crime and delinquency (e.g. social planners; educational, social welfare, youth development and employment experts and policy makers) and who have a special knowledge of and experience in the topics on the agenda;

(2) Representatives of the specialized agencies of the United Nations, of intergovernmental organizations and of non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council interested in or concerned with social defence matters;

(3) Individual participants having a direct interest in the field of social defence (such as members of the teaching staffs of universities, of criminological or social research institutes and of national non-governmental organizations concerned with social defence matters; staff of correctional establishments and institutions for juvenile delinquents; members of courts and Bar Associations; social workers; youth workers; education specialists, police officials).

The United Nations will not bear any expenses of participants.

In the organization of the Congress, the Secretariat has been guided by the recommendations and advice of the Advisory Committee of Experts on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders at its meetings since 1965. The Programme will be centred around the over-all theme of crime and development. The Agenda items as finalized in the light of the recommendations of the Advisory Committee in its third session and of the Ad Hoc Meeting of Experts on Social Defence Policies in Relation to Development Planning, both of which met in June 1969, are as follows:

- (1) Social defence policies and national development planning;
- (2) Participation of the public in the prevention and control of crime and delinquency;
- (3) The Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners in the light of recent developments in the correctional field;
- (4) Organization of research for policy development in social defence.

Item (4) has been added in order to give scope for discussions of research in connection with policy development.

The official languages of the Congress will be English, French, Spanish and Russian. Simultaneous interpretation from and into these languages will be provided at all section and plenary meetings.

The United Nations Secretariat will prepare a working paper on each of the substantive items on the agenda of the Congress. These documents will set the stage for the discussions by giving the elements of the problem, indicating the preoccupation of developed and developing countries and defining the major issues involved. The specialized agencies and the non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council may also prepare, on the invitation of the Secretariat, background documentation on specific questions pertaining to the subject matters under consideration.

The documentation will be mailed to participants at least six weeks in advance and there will be no distribution of documents during the Congress.

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LIFE LINE CONVENTION ON GAMBLING IN AUSTRALIAN SOCIETY

HELD ON SATURDAY, 7th MARCH, 1970

The following statement adopted at a Plenary Session of the Convention in Wesley Centre, 210 Pitt Street, Sydney, is reproduced with the permission of 'Life Line'.

PREAMBLE.

Australians are spending over \$4,000,000 a day on legalised gambling through lotteries, poker machines, T.A.B. and bookmakers, the total for 1968 being \$1,505,810,000.

The number of compulsive gamblers in Sydney could be as high as 30,000, whilst the number seeking help from Life Line increased by 345% from 1964 to 1969 as compared with an increase of approximately 50% in total calls.