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United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

Yury Fedotov
Executive Director

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EXECUTIVE OFFICE
OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL

22 May 2014

Dear Mr. Secretary-General,

I write to inform you that last week the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its session in Vienna adopted a resolution that gave additional impetus to the preparations for the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, to take place in Doha, from 12 to 19 April 2015.

The Thirteenth Congress will mark the 60th anniversary of United Nations congresses on crime prevention and criminal justice, the most important UN fora on international cooperation in criminal matters, held every five years. For over half a century, the congresses have shaped international and domestic policy in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice and have contributed to novel thinking and approaches to complex issues at the heart of one of the key institutions of the modern state: the criminal justice system.

In view of its organization at a time of advance negotiations on the post-2015 development agenda, the Thirteenth Congress offers a unique opportunity to place at the centre stage the role of the criminal justice system in the promotion of the rule of law and in support of sustainable development. The Congress is uniquely placed to achieve these goals as it is the largest and most diverse gathering within the United Nations system of policy-makers and practitioners in the area of crime prevention and criminal justice, with the participation of parliamentarians, individual experts from academia, representatives from civil society and the media.

In addition, the overall theme of the Thirteenth Congress ("Integrating crime prevention and criminal justice into the wider United Nations agenda to address social and economic challenges and to promote the rule of law at the national and international levels, and public participation") as well as its comprehensive provisional agenda, as determined by the General Assembly, cover a broad range of crime prevention and criminal justice issues and, as such, can trigger further policy debate on the importance of the promotion of the rule of law at the national and international levels.

Mr. Ban Ki-moon
Secretary-General
United Nations
New York

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UNODC supports the Congress as its Secretariat. The organizational and substantive preparations are well advanced and benefit from full support of the government of the State of Qatar.

In view of the significance of the Crime Congress, I would encourage you to consider the possibility of your participation in the high level segment which will be held during its first two days where heads of state and governments and ministers are expected to address the meeting.

I also understand that the Permanent Representative of Qatar at a meeting with you next week intends to convey a formal request from her government for your attendance at the Crime Congress in Doha.

UNODC stands ready to provide your office with all necessary information regarding the Congress.

Sincerely yours

Yuri Fedotov
Executive Director