

### **Strengthening crime prevention and criminal justice responses to violence against women and girls**

At its 10th meeting, on 18 April 2008, the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, reaffirming the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women<sup>27</sup> and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action<sup>28</sup> adopted by the Fourth World Conference on Women, held in Beijing from 4 to 15 September 1995, and in particular, the determination of Governments to prevent and eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls, reaffirming also the programme of action adopted at the International Conference on Population and Development, held in Cairo from 5 to 13 September 1994, as well as the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled “Women 2000: gender, equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century”,<sup>29</sup> and the declaration adopted at the forty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women,<sup>30</sup> stressing that all forms of violence against women and girls constitute not only a violation of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of women but also have serious socio-economic consequences that hinder the achievement of gender equality and development, recognizing that effective and integrated criminal justice responses to all forms of violence against women and girls require close cooperation between all key stakeholders, including law enforcement officials, prosecutors, victim advocates, medical professionals and forensic scientists, and mindful that the Model Strategies and Practical Measures on the Elimination of Violence against Women in the Field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (General Assembly resolution 52/86, annex) were developed ten years ago and should be reviewed by Member States, in a manner consistent with their legal systems, in order to reflect current developments and research, taking into account, inter alia, new approaches and prevention tools and good practices:

(a) Strongly condemned all acts of violence against women and girls, including violence against women migrants and women migrant workers, whether those acts are perpetrated by the State, by private persons or by non-State actors, and called for the elimination of all forms of gender-based violence in the family, within the general community and where perpetrated or condoned by the State;

(b) Stressed that violence against women means any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including the threat of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or private life;

(c) Requested the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to convene an intergovernmental group of experts with equitable geographical representation, in cooperation with the institutes of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal

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<sup>27</sup> General Assembly resolution 48/104.

<sup>28</sup> *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

<sup>29</sup> General Assembly resolution S-23/2, annex, and resolution S-23/3, annex.

<sup>30</sup> See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2005, Supplement No. 7* and corrigendum (E/2005/27 and Corr.1), chap. 1, sect. A; see also Economic and Social Council decision 2005/232.

Justice Programme network, the Commission on the Status of Women and the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, to review and update, as appropriate, the Model Strategies and Practical Measures on the Elimination of Violence against Women in the Field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, taking into account current developments, research, tools and the outcome of the deliberations of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its seventeenth session, and to make recommendations on addressing violence against women and girls, to be considered by the Commission at its nineteenth session, and invited Member States and other donors to provide extrabudgetary contributions for those purposes in accordance with the rules and procedures of the United Nations;

(d) Welcomed the offer of the Government of Thailand to act as host to the meeting of the intergovernmental group of experts, to be held in 2008;

(e) Requested the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to report to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its nineteenth session on the implementation of the present decision.